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No. 89

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 22, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUE WILKINS MYRICK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1664. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 1664) "An Act making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KYL, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr.

HOLLINGS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for 3 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO LATE TEXAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BOB BULLOCK

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, whenever I fly home to Texas and my plane approaches the State of Texas, I often hear the sound of rising thunder drifting across our land. The rumble is and can be known as the echoes of Texans, past and present, voicing their solid beliefs in individuality, independence and State pride. For the past few days, however, that thunder has been stilled, for the voices of all Texans have been silent in quiet reverence for the passing of our former Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock, a great Texan and a great American.

After courageously fighting lung cancer and heart disease, Bob Bullock passed away this past Friday. As we Texans like to say, he fought a good fight, but he simply ran out of time.

Bob Bullock's long and proud legacy of service to Texas stands as a striking and fitting monument. In addition to

his post as Lieutenant Governor, Bullock served 16 years as State Comptroller. He also served Texas as the Secretary of State, as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, and as an Assistant Attorney General. He truly loved public service and loved his State. From his early days as a Texas State Representative in 1956 to his final days as a retired Lieutenant Governor, Bob Bullock placed the interests of his State even before his own. He would often work when he was ailing, but he was committed to the values of our State and of this country.

As Secretary of State he strove to attain campaign and election law changes as well as voting rights for 18-year-olds. Bullock headed the first consumer protection division at the Attorney General's office as an Assistant Attorney General. And while he was a great admirer of history, particularly Texas history, Bob Bullock also knew the value of foreseeing the future, something quite evident when he became one of the first elected officials to use computers in his office.

Because I have known discrimination, I appreciate and applaud Bob Bullock's steadfast commitment to equal opportunity. He would let no one turn him around. As the Texas State Comptroller, he was the first elected official to enact an equal opportunity employment policy in his office. I can recall the many times that Bullock shared political alliances with the late Barbara Jordan, the first black woman elected to the Texas State Senate. Bullock also and always looked beyond a person's race or gender. To him, it was only the person's spirit and character that mattered. He was also a friend of our first historically black State school in the State, one born out of segregation, Texas Southern University.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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As a mother of children who have grown up in the Texas school system, I am also grateful for his successful efforts to enhance the quality of Texas education by implementing improvements. As Lieutenant Governor in 1991, Bullock helped pass a school plan that encouraged wealthy school districts to share their money with districts less fortunate.

Yet it seems that Bob Bullock, like all Texas heroes, transcends his mere accomplishments. It is his character that we will cherish and remember. Bob Bullock was a force. He had a fiery temper that could put even the hottest Texas chili to shame, and he was as demanding on his staff as he was on himself. Bob Bullock, however, won the position of Lieutenant Governor and he had the respect of all the Senators.

He was one who appreciated a good joke. Although I have not completed my tribute to this great leader, this great Texan, let me say, Madam Speaker, to his wife and to his children, we have truly lost an American hero, a Texas hero, but most of all we have lost a friend who cared and loved for his fellow man and woman more than he cared for himself.

God bless you, Bob Bullock, God bless America, and God bless Texas.

Whenever I fly home to Texas and my plane approaches the Texas State line, I often hear the sound of rising thunder drifting across the land. That rumble is the echoes of Texans, past and present, voicing their solid beliefs in individuality, independence, and State pride. For the past few days, however, that thunder has been still, for the voices of all Texans have been silent in quiet reverence for the passing of former Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

After courageously fighting lung cancer and heart disease, Bob Bullock passed away this past Friday. As we Texans like to say, he fought a good fight. He simply ran out of time.

Bob Bullock's long and proud legacy of service to Texas stands as a striking and fitting monument. In addition to his post as Lieutenant Governor, Bullock served 16 years as State Comptroller. He also served Texas as the Secretary of State, as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, and as an Assistant Attorney General. And from his early days as a Texas State Representative in 1956 to his final days as a retired Lieutenant Governor, Bob Bullock placed the interests of his State even before his own.

As Secretary of State, he strove to attain campaign and election law changes, as well as voting rights for 18 year-olds. Bullock headed the first consumer protection division at the Texas attorney general's office as an assistant attorney general. And while he was a great admirer of history, particularly Texas history, Bob Bullock also knew the value of foreseeing the future, something quite evident when he became one of the first elected officials to use computers at his office.

Because I have known discrimination, I appreciate and applaud Bob Bullock's steadfast commitment to equal opportunity. As the Texas State Comptroller, he was the first elected official to enact an equal opportunity employment policy in his office. I can recall many times where Bullock shared political alliances with the late Barbara Jordan, the first

black woman elected to the Texas State Senate. Bullock always looked beyond a person's race or gender. To him, it was only the person's spirit and character that mattered. He was also a friend of our first historically black State School in the State, one born out of segregation—Texas Southern University.

And as a mother whose children were a part of the school system in Texas, I am also grateful for his successful efforts to enhance the quality of the Texas education system by implementing improvements. As Lieutenant Governor in 1991, Bullock helped pass a school plan that encouraged wealthy school districts to share their money with districts less fortunate.

Yet, it seems that Bob Bullock, like all Texas heroes, transcends his mere accomplishments. It is his character that we will cherish and remember. Bob Bullock was a force. He had a fiery temper that could put even the hottest Texas chili to shame, and he was as demanding on his staff as he was on himself. When Bullock won his position as Lieutenant Governor, he took many Texas Senators to task, and soon the Senators deemed his fiery and confrontational demeanor as The Bullock Treatment.

As many know, however, in the midst of the Bullock storm stood a gentle calm. And it is his great capacity for kindness and consideration that most remember. Bob Bullock always had an intense loyalty for his friends and loved ones. He was known for his corps of aides composed of a vast mix of individual talents, a group he affectionately called "the world's largest group of born losers." Through his belief in their abilities, he found ways to optimize the skills and personalities of each person. Perhaps because Bullock stood behind each and every member of his staff, they, too, stood behind him with determination and die-hard loyalty. He also was always ready for a good joke and a hearty laugh.

Bob Bullock learned early in his career that the good of the State often rose well above mere politics. When Governor George W. Bush first entered office, Bullock quickly forged a friendship with the new Governor. Bob Bullock was keen enough to realize that in-fighting with the Capitol could not help his State. He built a foundation for bipartisanship that now drives the State forward.

Bob Bullock now rests in the State Cemetery, which, ironically, now stands in renewed glory thanks to Bullock's renovation efforts. This past Sunday, a crowd of mourners stood below the gray sky and said their quiet good-byes. People from all walks of life attended, a tribute to Bullock's ability to touch a great cross-section of society. And although the entire state claimed him, he loved his beloved Hillsboro and they loved and admired him.

Like all Texas heroes, Bob Bullock embraced the very ideal of Texas. His personality was tough, incendiary, yet compassionate. He was great, and he was grand. And for that, Texas embraced, and still embraces, him.

To his wife Jan, his son and daughter, his stepdaughter, his grandson and all his other family members, we all lost a great Texan and a Great American, long may his legacy be remembered.

RELEASE OF RUDMAN REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 19, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the report of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board that criticized the state of security at the Department of Energy nuclear weapons laboratories and recommending certain structural reforms was released last week. This advisory board was chaired by former Senator Warren Rudman and includes detailees from the CIA, the FBI, and the Department of Defense. The report was titled, quote, Science at Its Best, Security at Its Worst.

Even though the Clinton administration has tried time and time again to pass the buck on taking responsibility for the security failures and has attempted to place the blame on previous administrations, a current administration spokesman at the White House who was intimately involved in the preparation of the report said the current administration is more culpable than any since the Department of Energy was created in 1977. The Rudman report denounces the administration for ignoring the Republican-proposed reforms at the Energy Department when it took office in 1993.

Here are some of the findings from the Rudman report: One, an Energy Department employee was dead 11 months before officials realized four documents with classified and restricted data were still assigned to him.

It took 45 months to fix a broken doorknob that was stuck in an open position, allowing access to sensitive nuclear information.

Energy Department officials took 35 months to write a work order to replace a lock at a weapons lab facility containing sensitive nuclear information.

Ordering security for mislabeled software took 24 months.

No one knows how many months passed before a security audit team discovered that the main telephone frame door at a weapons lab had been forced open and the lock destroyed.

And lastly, correcting a mistake that allowed secure telephone cryptographic materials to go improperly safeguarded for 51 months.

But most damaging of all is the following section of the Rudman report, and let me read it: "Never have the members of the special investigative panel witnessed a bureaucratic culture so thoroughly saturated with cynicism and disregard for authority. Never before has this panel found such a cavalier attitude towards one of the most serious responsibilities in the Federal Government, control of the design information relating to nuclear weapons. Never before has the panel found an agency with a bureaucratic insolence to dispute, delay and resist implementation of a Presidential directive on security as DOE's bureaucracy tried to do on the President's Decision Directive No. 61 that was issued in February of 1998."

This directive mandated new counterintelligence measures at the labs, but the Advisory Board found that implementation of this directive suffered from "bureaucratic foot-dragging and even," Madam Speaker, recalcitrance" by DOE and lab officials. The report further notes that, quote, "DOE and the weapons laboratories have a deeply rooted culture of low regard for and at times hostility to security issues, which has continually frustrated the efforts of its internal and external critics," end quote.

The Rudman report makes two specific recommendations. The first is that the DOE's "weapon research and stockpile management function should be placed wholly within a new semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy that has a clear mission, streamlined bureaucracy, drastically simplified lines of authority and accountability" and the agency's Director would report directly to the Energy Secretary.

The second alternative recommendation was to create a wholly independent agency to handle the previously mentioned functions, and its Director would report directly to the President.

Unfortunately, I personally do not believe that a reorganization or a shake-up of the Department of Energy and how it handles nuclear secrets will be sufficient in destroying the pervasive antiestablishment culture that exists in the Department and at the weapons lab as detailed by the Rudman report. Instead, I agree with the conclusion of the Rudman report which states that the Department of Energy is, quote, "incapable of reforming itself, bureaucratically and culturally, in a lasting way even under an activist Secretary," end quote.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, the only way to protect our Nation's nuclear weapons is through the abolishment of the Department of Energy itself and placing all of its offices in other Federal agencies. I believe the management of our Nation's nuclear weapons and all classified related functions of the Department of Energy should be transferred to the Department of Defense. All other nonclassified functions should be transferred to a semi-independent agency within the Department of Commerce.

The bureaucratic stranglehold that has become the Department of Energy has placed our Nation's security at risk, and the only way out of effectively ending this ineptitude is through the ending of the Department of Energy.

A DAY TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for helping to organize today's morning hour. This week Americans will honor working men and women who help others to organize, who help people take those first difficult steps toward forming a union that protects their right to a livable wage, affordable health care, a secure retirement and a safe workplace.

United employees are a powerful balancing force against runaway corporate power. United employees win better working conditions, pay and benefits for all workers, not just those who belong to unions.

I have always been unapologetic about working arm in arm with Americans who fight for the values that make this Nation great: respect, fairness, security and an opportunity to give our families a brighter future. As we all know, today's battles are infused with these values.

We have come a long way since the days when the United States did not know the meaning of employee rights. We have a labor movement to thank. Unions fought to free their members from back-breaking labor, unsafe conditions and from low wages. Unions fought for basic rights. Many a union worker gave their lives for these gains and these principles.

My own mother worked in a sweatshop in New Haven, Connecticut, during the early part of this century, slaving over a sewing machine. She worked long days in awful conditions for only pennies a dress. No one should ever have to return to these days.

But we do not need to refer to the history books to understand the need for unions today. Organized labor is as relevant and as important today as during those first organizing drives. We do not have sweatshops on the same scale, and there are a litany of labor laws on the books, but attacks still continue. Workers' rights are eaten away at constantly. Employees are losing leverage and their say in the workplace and in the larger community every day.

Over the past 3 years, with the blessing of the Republican majority, the business lobby has encouraged efforts to cut enforcement of worker protection laws and blocked development of programs to improve worker health and worker safety.

I want to talk about a victory in the movement to organize that happened last year in my own district, the Third District of Connecticut, and honor the hard-working men and women who fought for that victory. Last spring, 230 employees at the New Haven Omni Hotel won the right to openly choose their own union. This was a victory over the hotel's long-standing insistence on a secret ballot election. In a fight for the basic right to choose their own union, the employees were supported by elected leaders such as myself, local clergy, academics, students and civil rights groups.

□ 1245

These groups held hearings, they met with hotel managers, and they even threatened to boycott the hotel. Such support should be the rule, not the exception, but sadly it is not. According to a Cornell University study, one in four employees who are active in union campaigns are fired each year for exercising their right to choose a union. Ninety-one percent of employers, when they learn that their workers want to form a union, force employees to attend closed-door meetings, to listen to anti-union propaganda, and once they have organized, working men and women still have to fight for basic rights. At the Stratford Army Engine Plant, Yale and Sikorski employees have had to fight for livable wages, health care, and adequate retirement policies. These are not only assaults on unions, they are assaults on the integrity of our communities.

Since the beginning, working men and women have fought for the values that make this Nation great, equality, fairness, security, and an opportunity to give one's family a bright future. The battle has not been easy, but together we will turn the tide and once again help improve working American's lives and set new directions for this country.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for inviting me to join this morning. It is an honor to be here every day and every day in the fight to uphold American basic values. The fight is worth it, especially on behalf of American families.

IF NOAH LIVED IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, this is not original. It was sent to me by someone else, but I thought it was very apropos for our life today. It is called If Noah Lived in the United States Today.

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In 1 year I'm going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water until all flesh is destroyed, but I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing on the earth. Therefore I'm commanding you to build an ark." In a flash of lightning God delivered the specifications for an ark, and fear and trembling, Noah took the plans and agreed to build he ark.

"Remember," said the Lord, "you must complete the ark and bring everything aboard in 1 year."

Well, exactly 1 year later fierce storm clouds covered the earth, and all the seas of the earth went into tumult. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard weeping. "Noah," he shouted, "Where is the ark? Lord,

please forgive me," cried Noah "I did my best, but there were big problems.

"First, I had to get a permit for construction, and your plans did not meet the codes. I had to hire an engineering firm to redraw the plans. Then I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the ark needed a fire sprinkler system and floatation devices.

"Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. Then I had problems getting enough wood for the ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the spotted owl. I finally convinced the US Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls.

"However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls, so no owls. The carpenters formed a union and went on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or a hammer.

"Now I have 16 carpenters on the ark, but still no owls. When I started rounding up the other animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me only taking two of each kind of animal aboard. Just when I got the suit dismissed the EPA notified me that I could not complete the ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood.

"They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the universe. Then the Army Engineers demanded a map of the proposed new flood plain. So I sent them a globe. Right now I'm trying to resolve a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that I'm practicing discrimination by not taking Godless or unbelieving people on board.

"The IRS has seized my assets claiming I'm building an ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid taxes. I just got a notice from the State that I owe them some kind of tax and that I failed to register the ark as a recreational watercraft.

"Finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the ark saying that since God is flooding the earth it is a religious event and therefore unconstitutional. I really don't think I can finish the ark for another 5 or 6 years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear and the sun began to shine and the seas began to calm. A rainbow arched across the sky, and Noah looked up hopefully. "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth, Lord?"

"No," the Lord said sadly, "I don't have to. The government already has."

PROUD AND STRONG SUPPORTER OF ORGANIZED LABOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 19, 1999, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for his leadership on labor issues on behalf of working families throughout this country, and I would like to commend my friends at the AFL-CIO for organizing the seven days in June activities. This week there are over 110 organized labor rallies taking place across the Nation as a result of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying loud and clear that I am a proud and strong supporter of organized labor in this country. I am proud to stand with the hard-working men and women who make up the labor movement in America. I am committed to fighting for a middle-class workforce where workers can comfortably support a family and not worry about losing their jobs, and I will continue to urge this Congress to fight not only for a minimum wage, but for a livable wage. I will continue to demand international trade agreements that create more American jobs, not lose them, and I will stand with my friends in the labor movement against any and all initiatives designed to compromise workers' safety, worker rights, or worker benefits.

The history of the U.S. labor movement is a strong and proud one. Organized labor embodies what is best in our constitution, namely our First Amendment freedoms of speech and association. But the Constitution only protects these freedoms. It has been the courage and determination of working women and men that have been the engine of social progress throughout this century.

The fact is nobody ever handed a working person the American dream. Job security, a living wage, the right to collective bargaining, these are things which were fought for. The benefits gained for the courage and blood of organized labor are now commonplace among most American workplaces. It is important to recognize that without the labor movement there would be no minimum wage, there would be no safety standards in the workplace, there would be no pensions or worker health plans. If it were not for organized labor, workers would have no rights, and that is a fact.

Organized labor continues to push for real issues important to real working people, and I urge working people across this country to keep organizing and to keep advocating. We can never allow our country to become a society where a privileged few enjoy all the benefits of the many who work. We must continue to work together in the next century to advance our issues, to pass meaningful labor legislation, and to continue to move forward toward a society which reflects the principles of social and legal justice for all, but this will only happen through continued

grassroots organization by dedicated working men and women.

PAUL HARVEY ON GUN CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20 of this year a terrible tragedy occurred at Columbine High School in Colorado, and I do not represent Columbine High School. Now I do not represent Columbine High School. I represent some Littleton addresses, and I am close to Columbine, but I do not exactly represent it, but I took this tragedy very, very personally. It is something that I think all of us have a difficult time getting over.

On Wednesday, April 21, 1 day, 1 day after the tragedy, as I understand it, the chairman of the Democrat Congressional Committee was whipping his troops into line saying that this is a great time for gun control legislation to be presented to the House because it will be good for politics in the next election. I think that is shameful. We should not take advantage of this kind of a tragedy for political purposes.

I did not engage in the debate last week when we were dealing with this because I did not feel we were doing anything that was really very meaningful. Demagoguery flowed from both sides like water, and nothing much was really accomplished, and as the various amendments came up, I kept asking myself would this have done anything in the Columbine case if this amendment had been law, and most cases, sadly I have to say absolutely not.

Recently I heard a Paul Harvey broadcast which I think maybe opens up the perspective on the Columbine High School situation, and I would like to share that with my colleagues this morning:

If only the parents had kept their children away from the guns, we wouldn't have had such a tragedy. Yeah, it must have been the guns. It couldn't have been because of half of our children being raised in broken homes. It couldn't have been because our children get to spend an average of 30 seconds in meaningful conversation with their parents each day. After all, we give our children quality time.

It couldn't have been because we treat our children as pets and our pets as children. It couldn't have been because we place our children in the day care centers where they learn their socialization skills among their peers under the law of the jungle while employees, who have no vested interest in the children, look on and make sure that no blood is spilled.

It couldn't have been because we allow our children to watch an average of 7 hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that isn't fit for adult consumption. It couldn't have been because we allow our children to enter into the virtual worlds in which, to win the game, one must kill as many opponents as possible in the most sadistic way possible.

It couldn't have been because our children, who historically have been seen as a blessing

from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake created when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to raise in their spare time.

It couldn't have been because our Nation is the world leader in developing a culture of death in which 20 million to 30 million babies have been killed by abortion. It couldn't have been because we give 2-year prison sentences to teenagers who kill their newborns.

It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud by teaching evolution is fact and by handing out condoms as if they were candy. It couldn't have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions do not have consequences. What the heck, the President gets away with it. No, it must have been the guns.

I think Paul Harvey's statement illustrates the corruption that has permeated our society that leads to things like Columbine. No amount of gun legislation will solve the problems in our society. The answers are complex, and they are multi-faceted. There is no quick fix. It is time that we looked at the roots of our problems and not just at the surface symptoms.

VALUE OF THE UNIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker, my father, Frank Kucinich, senior, was a truck driver and he drove a truck for 35 years, and he was proud of the work that he did, and he was also proud to be a member of Local 407 of the Teamsters Union.

I grew up with a heritage of believing in the importance of people belonging to an organized labor group, and as I was growing up, I saw how my father would attend union meetings. And I would have the occasion to go with him to some of those meetings. And I heard people talk about their desire for a better wage, not just for themselves, but for their families. I heard people talk about the desire for improved health care benefits, not just for themselves, but for their families.

I heard people talk about retirement security, not just for themselves, but for their families, and so what I saw in growing up in Cleveland, Ohio was men and women coming together to try to improve not only their lot but the lot of their families.

All across this country, working men and women are going to work every day with the intention of building a better quality of life, and the only way they can do that is to stay united, and that is what unions are all about. In unity there is strength. And across this country, men and women have been able to have a better wage level and because of that have helped to assure higher wages in the nonorganized sector.

Across this country, men and women have been able to have better health benefits, better retirement benefits because they have united, and that is something that is profoundly American. We have communicated to the world this idea that in unity there is strength, and through working men and women organizing we have demonstrated that even the humblest person should have an opportunity to have a position at the table of great power and that the humblest person in joining with others can have some control over his or her destiny and over his or her quality of life.

□ 1300

I am glad to be part of a Democratic Party which supports working men and women.

WELCOME TO REVEREND STEVEN L. WOLVERTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. ERLICH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHRlich. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the Reverend Steven L. Wolverson, who served as my Legislative Fellow in my congressional office in 1997. Steve is in the gallery to the right, and I welcome him to the House of Representatives here today. He is an electrical engineer with the Federal Government, as well as a youth pastor at Lee Street Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

Steve and his wife, Vicki, lead a dynamic, growing youth ministry in south Baltimore called LifeChangers, which is dedicated to establishing role models and positive life opportunities for inner-city youth. More recently he is working with a Baltimore businessman to renovate an old department store and establish a private evangelical Christian school in the southern Baltimore peninsula. I commend him on the investment he is making on behalf of the young people of Baltimore City.

Steve is a strong believer in serving God and his country, and it is my privilege to welcome him to the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Thank you, Steve, for your inspiring life, and welcome.

CELEBRATING ORGANIZED LABOR FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to America's working men and women. I come from a working family. I come from a union family. I know what it is like to worry

whether one's paycheck is going to stretch to the next one. I know what it is like to be laid off.

I strongly support organized labor because my father was able to put a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs, a good car in our garage, food on our table, and two daughters through college and law school because of the union wages he earned in Las Vegas.

Madam Speaker, 37 years ago my family arrived in Las Vegas with all of our possessions in a U-Haul hooked up to the back of the car. My dad joined the culinary union and landed a job as a waiter at the old Sands Hotel on the Las Vegas strip. That union job was the greatest break my family ever received. It opened the doors to opportunity for all of us.

I am the first person in my family to go to college. I worked my way through college and law school. I waitressed at the Sands Hotel, ran keno at the Desert Inn, and cocktail waitressed at the Hacienda, the Aladdin and Holiday Casino, all on the Las Vegas strip. Each of these union jobs contributed to my ability to put myself through college and law school.

Let me tell my colleagues, I am just one of hundreds of thousands of fellow Nevadans who have benefited from the positive influence of organized labor in my town. Almost without exception, the major employers of the thriving resort industry in Las Vegas have recognized that their industry and the entire city has grown strong because of good wages and good working conditions that good labor contracts have created. The prosperity of Las Vegas, built by the strong minds and backs of working men and women, can serve as a model for other parts of the country.

First and foremost, trade unions build strong families. America needs families earning a decent living, wages good enough to afford that home, that car, and an education for their children. That is how we grow the American economy.

Madam Speaker, I want our workers to have jobs free from the threats of raids on our family leave and our medical leave, free from raids on Social Security and Medicare, and free from raids on the right of every worker to collective bargaining. This country is better off for a 5-day work week, overtime pay, paid holidays and vacations, health insurance, child labor laws, and a minimum wage, all won by organized labor. Organized labor is vital to the well-being of our country, our families, and our communities. It makes a positive difference for all of us, and that is why, that is why I join in this week's celebration of organized labor.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of working Americans and every American, because we have reached a milestone on the calendar. Today, June 22, 1999, ranks as Cost of Government Day.

Now, it is true that yesterday, with the summer solstice gave us our longest period of daylight, the longest day of the year, but, Madam Speaker, I believe all Americans, especially those who work so hard to feed their families, need to know that today marks the day, 170-plus days into the calendar year, when Americans can finally go to work for their families instead of paying the cost of our bloated bureaucracy and government.

What does it mean to working families, Madam Speaker? What does it mean to every American? Well, simply this: According to Americans for Tax Reform, Madam Speaker, Federal regulations during 1998 cost American taxpayers over \$1 trillion. That translates to over \$3,800 for every man, woman and child this year. Americans for Tax Reform estimates that working American will work in excess of 1 month, almost 40 days, in excess of 38 days, to pay for regulatory costs.

Madam Speaker, that is why today I am pleased to come to the floor to announce that I will reintroduce on this, the Cost of Government Day, the Congressional Responsibility Act. It is being sponsored in the other body by my good friend, the senior Senator from Kansas Mr. BROWNBACK. The Congressional Responsibility Act requires that new Federal regulations cannot take effect until Congress approves them and the President signs them, or until his veto is overridden.

Madam Speaker, in the weight of this compelling, overwhelming evidence that our government has grown too large and costs working Americans too much, I say it is important to restore what our Constitution said and our Founders, following the beautiful Preamble which serves as more than just a mission statement for our United States; in our Constitution, the very blueprint of our Republic, says this: Article I, section 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

In other words, Madam Speaker, all lawmaking authority. But as historians look back upon the 20th century, Madam Speaker, they will talk about the unintended rise of, in essence, a fourth branch of government, the regulatory branch, because to deal with emerging industries, to deal with trying to control so many sectors of our economy, the Congress ceded, delegated its authority to an alphabet soup of acronymed agencies in the executive branch, where, Madam Speaker, unelected, unaccountable Washington bureaucrats, in essence, make law.

Madam Speaker, a personal indulgence. J.D. in my name does not stand for juris doctor. I am not a lawyer; I never played one on TV. That is considered an asset in Arizona. But one need

not be a lawyer to recognize that when Washington bureaucrats make law, the unelected, the unaccountable suddenly have great power in our society, to the point now where we work 170-plus days every year just to pay for the cost of government; where all Americans work in excess of 1 month, in excess of 38 days to pay for regulations.

What we say with the Congressional Responsibility Act is quite simple. Those regulatory agencies can continue to promulgate and formulate regulations, but, Madam Speaker, men and women of goodwill from both sides of the aisle, constitutionally elected by their constituents, are sent to Washington to make tough choices, and what the Congressional Responsibility Act would simply do would be to say this: Once a regulation is promulgated, have it sent to the Congress for an up or down vote. That way, Madam Speaker, accountability, responsibility, authority is restored where our Founders wanted it to be: with those elected to the Congress of the United States, with those who are accountable to the people.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join Senator BROWNBACK, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and me in sponsoring and voting for the Congressional Responsibility Act.

AMERICANS' RIGHT TO ORGANIZE: GOOD FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) and others who have come before us to talk about the right of American men and women to organize; certainly, the right to decide whether or not they choose to organize to be represented in the workplace to determine what their wages might be, what benefits they might get, what the safety factors at work might be, what hours they might work, all of those things that many of us have become used to understanding as a valid exercise in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, 74 percent of the American people believe that workers should be able to decide whether they want to join a union, and they should be able to make that decision without interference by management. People support a fair and open process that allows for equal access and equal time, for any discussion of what it means to join a union. And, they support a decision-making process that reaches a timely conclusion on that issue. That means that when workers vote freely to join a union, that decision is honored and accepted by management.

The reality, unfortunately, is far different. Threats, intimidation and harassment are all too commonly used against those who seek to form a

union. In nearly one-third of all organizing drives, one or more workers are fired illegally. If workers are able to overcome those obstacles and form a union, the system allows for endless legal challenges and stonewalling by employers. The laws designed to protect the freedom to form a union are failing, and the penalties for ignoring them are too small to be a deterrent.

This is not a level playing field, and it is well past the time that we restore some measure of balance to the system.

Madam Speaker, we talk a good deal in this Chamber about how we might improve the lives of American families. I suggest that one specific way in which we can do that is to allow for American workers who so choose to join a union. It can make a significant difference in the ability of those workers to provide for their families.

Recently in my district, 24 employees of a small enterprise that made parts for engines being produced by the General Electric facility in Lynn signed cards to join a union. An overwhelming majority wanted that right. They had been earning \$6.10 an hour, and unionized employees doing the same work were making \$14 to \$18 an hour.

Segments of the community, including me, contacted the owner of that company, Metal Improvements, and urged that it respect the desires of the workers and sit down at the bargaining table in good faith. I am happy to report that that was done. Unfortunately, in too many other instances, management mounts an endless series of challenges to the workers' rights to organize. The results can be bitterness and divisiveness that undermine productivity.

Madam Speaker, unions not only serve their members well, they serve the broader interests of our society. When social service workers who care for the elderly and the mentally ill and the mentally retarded earn only \$7 or \$8 or \$9 with little or no pension or health care, as many do in my district, they are often forced to work two or three jobs a day just to make ends meet. Their ability to do just one job well suffers. Turnover is high, and the quality of care is diminished.

Madam Speaker, by joining a union, these workers can raise their standard of living, and they ought to be able to have that right to make that decision.

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE A VOICE AT WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, earlier this year a number of us heard some powerful, real-life stories and experiences of workers from North Carolina and Las Vegas, Nevada, who were trying to organize. Their stories are the

stories of millions of working men and women who want a stronger voice in our workplace. Their stories are about improving lives and building better communities. They are stories that need to be told across this country. All of us need to hear the challenges workers face when they choose to organize.

When the American public learns about the tactics that employers use, threats of losing their job, verbal and sexual harassment and mandatory antiunion meetings, they overwhelmingly, overwhelmingly support the freedom to choose a voice at work. That is why the AFL-CIO has launched the "Seven Days In June," a week-long series of community forums and rallies and demonstrations all across this country.

From the June 19 to June 25, we will hear more and more of these stories. There will be more than 120 activities in 36 States, activities which started last Saturday with our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) holding a community forum in Orange County, California.

□ 1315

Bringing dignity to the workplace is not easy, but it can and is being done. In fact, on the 27th of February of this year, 75,000 home care workers in Los Angeles won the largest organizing victory in 60 years when they voted to join the Service Employees International Union. This was a tremendous victory, but it did not happen overnight. It was the culmination of 10 years of hard work, of building a broad-based coalition, of gaining the support of home care consumers and political leaders.

In the end, it was about bringing the community together, uniting families behind the notion that those who take care of our parents and our grandparents ought to have some basic worker rights: A decent wage, not \$5 an hour, \$6 an hour, \$7 an hour like they are making today; safe working conditions, and adequate benefits.

These kinds of victories are occurring more and more. The doctors in our country are starting to organize unions because of their frustration with the health care system that will not let them practice what they have learned and took so long to learn in their studies.

The graduate assistants teaching at universities and colleges all over the country are now organizing, with great victories recently occurring at the University of California.

Workers are holding and winning more union elections than in the previous year, winning 51 percent of the time in 1998. That figure is particularly remarkable when we look at the tactics that employers use to squelch organizing drives: Firing pro union employees, using intimidating and verbal harassment at the workplace, holding closed-door one-on-one shakedown sessions with workers, and spending millions on anti-union consultants.

With all these cards that are stacked against the workers, how do they win? First and foremost, it comes from deep down. It comes from a resolve and a commitment to be treated with dignity and with respect.

It also comes from raising awareness, from building coalitions with the religious community, the civic communities, with political leaders, and from building a stronger community in general.

For those of us who care deeply about working families and strengthening our community, we have a responsibility and indeed an obligation to lend our voices to workers who have chosen to organize. I know some who have joined the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PALLONE) and myself recently in sending a letter to A&P food-stores simply to allow strawberry workers the choice to organize. I thank Members for that.

For those who are unaware of the situation, the California strawberry industry is booming with the annual sales of \$650 million. Yet, workers stoop to pick the berries for at least 12 hours a day and earn only \$8,500 a season. Last spring the Wall Street Journal reported shocking sanitation conditions at these farms, where workers have insufficient drinking water, squalid restrooms, where workers have not been paid for overtime for 4 years, and where there is widespread sexual harassment against female employees.

To bring some semblance of dignity to their workplace, the strawberry workers simply want the ability to choose their own representation, but they have repeatedly faced attacks by the industry, including plowing under the fields, and flying in sham workers to vote in union elections, just to break the union. They would plow the fields under and import workers from other parts of the country, or other countries.

This is the exact type of situation that deserves the support from elected leaders, and there are many more situations just like that going on throughout this country.

So raising our voices and standing with the strawberry workers is one thing we can do to be helpful, but there are many more. During these 7 days in June, there are opportunities for all of us to participate in activities which will help our families have the freedom to choose a voice at work.

I invite all of my colleagues to stand together with workers, clergy, community leaders to highlight the hopes and dreams of families who are seeking to bring basic human compassion to their workplace, because when we do that, we not only build a better workplace for workers who are unionized, but for workers who are nonunionized. We set the floor, we set the standard for them. But beyond all of that, we build better communities.

I thank my colleagues who have come to speak on this and who have spoken. I ask my other colleagues to join us in these 7 days in June.

SEVEN DAYS IN JUNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MYRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for organizing this discussion in support of Seven Days in June, June 7 to 25. This is a week celebrating union organizing victories, and recognizing the importance of giving workers the freedom to choose a voice at work.

I am a proud member of UNITE, the needle trades union. I am proud of the accomplishments the union movement has won. Unions brought us the 40-hour work week, workers compensation, overtime compensation, and the end of child labor in this country.

Union members on average earn 32 percent more than other workers. They are more likely to receive health insurance and pension benefits from their employers.

More importantly, they have provided an organized voice for workers who have used that voice to make improvements in productivity, workplace safety, and environmental conditions.

Today there is perhaps no greater evidence of the need for workers to organize than the health care industry. The power of the for-profit health care industry has led to unwise cost-cutting that threatens not only the health and financial security of health care workers, but the patients they serve.

Several years ago, two nurses in New Jersey raised concerns about the effect of drive-through deliveries on mothers and infants, moms and babies being sent home the same day of delivery. One nurse, a union member, was threatened with retaliation, but was protected by her union. The other, an unorganized worker, had no one to intervene on her behalf.

Since then, Congress has passed a prohibition on drive-through deliveries, but without protection against retaliation, how many health care workers will be willing to talk about dangerous conditions? We need to pass whistle-blower protections, but we also need to give health care workers the opportunity to join a union if they want to.

Health care workers all over the country are looking to unions to protect them when they report problems. They are looking to unions to ensure they have safe working conditions.

This week in Chicago the AMA, the American Medical Association, is meeting to talk about unionization so physicians can have a strong voice in negotiating with large HMOs that dictate the terms of patient care.

Yet, when workers want to form a union, they face tremendous obstructions. The decks are stacked against them. At the same time that the AMA was meeting in Chicago, respiratory therapists from Vencor Hospital held a

press conference with the help of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The therapists, concerned about the impacts on patients' safety as a result of a planned 25 percent budget cut, expressed their desire to form a union. They have been confronted with a series of anti-union tactics by their employer. One nurse was fired because she spoke out in support of union representation.

Workers across the country, particularly in the health care area, are deciding that they need union representation to protect themselves, their families, and their patients. We should ensure that they have a fair opportunity to make that choice. It is as American as apple pie.

CELEBRATING FREEDOM OF WORKERS TO JOIN A UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor in celebration of the freedom of workers to join unions. Would that it were only a celebration for 7 days in June. Workers across the United States are crying out for their right to join unions. Is this America? It is a sad day when we have to draw attention to the importance of the freedom to organize in a society like ours.

One of those 7 days in June will be this Friday, the day in the District of Columbia where Members of the region will sit and hear testimony from union members in this region about the difficulties they have had in joining unions and forming unions in this region.

I know something about this area. I continue to be a tenured professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center. When I was full-time, one of the major courses that I taught was labor law, and I saw and read and studied the deterioration of workers' rights, of the right to strike.

I saw the contrasts between a period of great prosperity in American life when business understood that part of the symmetry of the workplace was the right to organize. We have come to a point instead where there is no longer talk about occasional union-busting, but workers meet wholesale resistance to the development of unions in the workplace whereby most employers, confronted with workers who want to join unions, develop strategies to keep unions from even getting a vote on whether workers want a union, in fact.

Show me a society where the right to organize is in danger, and I will show Members a society without full democracy.

What has our society come to? Wall Street is bursting at the seams. We have had surpluses for years on end. We have the best economy of the century, and we do not want workers to orga-

nize to get a fair share of that economy? We are sending people out off the welfare rolls, as well we should, and we do not want them to be organized so they can get a fair share, so they can in fact support their families as they leave welfare?

What have employers to fear? After all, unions have to win a vote the way we have to win a vote in order to come back to this House every 2 years. That is hard to do with today's demographics, where workers are by no means automatically oriented towards unions. Why, then, do half of the employers threaten to shut down if their workers organize? Why do they fire one in four workers who in fact organize?

Despite these extraordinary efforts, unions are now having remarkable success. They are winning half of their elections of 500 or more unions. Minority and female workers in particular fare much better when they are organized than when they are not.

THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, this is an important year. As I look back over the last few years and the challenges that we have, and of course there have been big challenges, doing some things we were told we could not do, I remember when I was first elected in 1994 we came to Washington to change how Washington works. There was a group of us in the majority here, and all of us were committed to doing some things there were those who told us we could not do, balancing the budget, cutting taxes for the middle class, reforming our welfare system, taming the tax collectors. But by sticking together and being persistent, we accomplished those very great challenges.

We balanced the budget for the first time in 2 years, we cut taxes for the first time in 16 years. In fact, in Illinois, my home State, 3 million Illinois children now benefit from the \$500 per child tax credit. When we think about that, that is \$1.5 million that now stays in Illinois, rather than coming to Washington to be spent. I personally think that the folks back home can better spend their hard-earned dollars in Illinois than I can for them in Washington.

On welfare reform, the first real welfare reform in a generation is working so well that in my home State of Illinois we have now seen our welfare rolls cut in half.

When it comes to taming the tax collector, we enacted a very fundamental change with IRS reform. If Members have ever been audited or gone to court with IRS in the past, they treated one as guilty until proven innocent. But thanks to this Republican Congress, we now have the same rights in the IRS that we have in the courtroom; that is,

we are innocent until the IRS proves us guilty.

Now we have some big challenges before us again this year, some challenges that the folks particularly on this side of the aisle say cannot be done. Republicans want to strengthen our local schools and make them safer. We want to strengthen social security and Medicare. In fact, we want to lock away for the first time in 30 years 100 percent of the social security surplus, so it is used only for social security. We want to pay down the national debt. We also want to continue working to lower the tax burden on middle class working families.

I believe, Madam Speaker, this year as we work to lower the tax burden on the middle class that we should listen to those concerns that I hear in the union halls and the South Side of Chicago and the south suburbs, in the VFW and local coffee shops and grain elevators.

Not only do people feel their taxes are too high, but they feel the Tax Code is too complicated, it needs to be simplified, and that the Tax Code is really unfair. I believe the first place we should start as we work to make our Tax Code fairer and more simpler is to address the most unfair consequence of today's Tax Code. That is something that has been nicknamed today the marriage tax penalty.

Why it is so important that we address this, this particular important issue that affects working middle class families, is to ask a series of questions. That is, do Americans feel that it is fair, do Americans feel that it is right, that a married working couple with two incomes pays on average \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married? Do Americans feel it is right, do Americans feel that it is fair, that 21 million married working couples, on average, pay \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married?

It is just plain wrong that a married working couple pays \$1,400 more in higher taxes than an identical couple living together outside of marriage. That is wrong. The marriage tax penalty on average is \$1,400. Back home in the South suburbs and in the South side of Chicago that is one year's tuition at a junior college, a local community college. It is 3 months in day care. It is several months worth of car payments. It is real money to real people, and it is just wrong that under our Tax Code married working couples pay more just because they are married.

Let me give an example here of a south suburban couple on the south suburbs of Chicago. We have a machinist, who of course works at the Joliet Caterpillar Plant making that big equipment. He makes \$30,500 a year.

Under our current Tax Code, if he is single and files as a single taxpayer, after we subtract the standard deduction and exemption, if he makes \$30,500, he is in the 15 percent tax bracket. But if he meets and decides

that he wants to get married to a schoolteacher with an identical income, and her income is \$30,500, of course, she is in the 15 percent tax bracket if she is single and stays single, but if she decides to marry this machinist their combined income is \$61,000 because they file jointly, which pushes them into the 28 percent tax bracket.

With the marriage tax penalty, they pay on average the almost \$1,400 in marriage tax penalty if they choose to get married. If they choose not to, they do not pay that marriage tax penalty.

Madam Speaker, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act has 230 cosponsors, a majority of this House. Let us make elimination of the marriage tax penalty our number one priority as we work to lower taxes for American families. Let us simplify to make the Tax Code fair to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Steven L. Wolverson, Lee Street Memorial Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Our most gracious Father in heaven, we humbly acknowledge Your majesty and Your Lordship over everything. Father, I pray that with all Your glory, Your power, Your mercy, and Your grace, that You would make yourself known here, and that Your presence, and Your truth might be breath-takingly crystal clear to all.

Father, I pray that You would deliver us from vain hypocrisy and impress upon us as a Nation, as individuals, and as leaders, the values of character, honesty, and integrity.

Father, humble us and direct our attention towards You for true wisdom and discernment. Father, I pray that each Member of this Congress might be absolutely mindful of Your existence, Your presence, Your deity, and Your will as they conduct the business You have entrusted them on behalf of Your people. Lord, help us love one another.

In the name of my Lord and my Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 1802, FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is expected to meet later this week to grant a rule which may restrict amendments for consideration of H.R. 1802, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

Any Member contemplating an amendment to H.R. 1802 should submit 55 copies of the amendment and a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules no later than noon on Thursday, June 24. The Committee on Rules office is in H-312 of the Capitol.

Amendments should be drafted to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on June 14.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House. All of this with reference to the H.R. 1802, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, Members are so notified.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1658, CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM ACT

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-193) on the resolution (H. Res. 216) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1658) to provide a more just and uniform procedure or Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 33, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-194) on the resolution (H.

Res. 217) providing for the consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 33) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today is Cost of Government Day, and as George Bernard Shaw once said, "A government which robs from Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul."

Well, the tax paying Americans have been robbed because during the first 173 days of the year, every penny earned by the hard-working men and women of this Nation has been used to pay for government bureaucracy and the added cost of government regulations.

It did not go to pay for their kids' education. It did not go to pay for medical costs or expenses. It did not go to pay for the home mortgage. It all went to pay for government bureaucracy and regulatory agencies.

Almost one-half of the year's effort of these hard-working Americans was spent just to pick up the tab for government bloated bureaucracy. Decades, decades of unchecked growth and deficit spending by the tax and spenders have left the hard-working men and women of this country with this crushing tax burden.

The vast majority of Americans do not object to paying their fair share of taxes, but they do object to the suffocating level of taxation that exists today.

Mr. Speaker, for our children's sake, let us allow hard-working families to keep more of their money, not less. Let us stop robbing Peter to pay Paul.

I urge my colleagues to support meaningful tax reform this year.

SALUTE TO DALLAS STARS, STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dallas Stars, the 1999 NHL champions.

The Stars electrified all of North Texas en route to winning the oldest trophy in sports, the Stanley Cup.

Along the way, the champs gave us some unforgettable performances. Whether it was the clutch play of Center Mike Modano, the sparkling saves of veteran goalie Eddie "the Eagle" Belfour, the crushing defense of Captain Derian Hatcher, or the bravery of Brett Hull, who scored the Cup-winning goal, it seemed like every game a different Star player stepped up and inspired the team to victory.

To all of the Dallas Stars, I say thank you on behalf of all Texans. You have shown the whole country that Big-D is more than just America's greatest football town.

Mr. Speaker, the Stanley Cup was the first leg of what will be the 1999 Texas hat trick. I am putting my colleagues on notice. Texas teams will end the century by winning, not only the Stanley Cup, but the NBA championship and the World Series as well.

Congratulations again to the mighty Dallas Stars, 1999 Stanley Cup champions.

PRESERVATION: PROTECTING AMERICA'S TREASURED LAND

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as I heard from my youth advisory committee visiting the Capitol today, urban sprawl has become a serious concern to Americans in many parts of the country, from the rural farm country in Lancaster and Chester County, Pennsylvania, to suburbs in the south and west.

There are several ways that Congress can help to prevent further unbridled development, yet still keep individual freedoms intact.

Today we will take one small step, through the Patriot Bill, to preserve land in Pennsylvania that is central to our American heritage. It is vital that we preserve two of our Revolutionary War treasures, the historic battlefields of Brandywine and Paoli. It will be a tragedy to lose this history to a housing development that now threatens the region.

By the same token, we must also take a larger step to give individuals in this country incentives to preserve their farmland and open space. By eliminating such burdensome taxes as the estate tax, capital gains tax which threatens so many family farmers, we allow farms in coveted open space to remain intact.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for farms and for open space. First support the Patriot Bill. Secondly, let us get rid of the death tax once and for all.

CONDEMN THE SYNAGOGUE BURNINGS IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the logical final outcome of hate crimes is the nightmare we see on our television sets every night in Kosovo. This past weekend, in the State of California, three synagogues were set on fire.

This past year in this free society, which is based on respect for all religions, Mr. Speaker, there were over

8,000 hate crimes in the United States. Some of these were directed on the basis of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.

Today, I am introducing a resolution condemning this outrageous act, which resulted in the destruction of three Jewish places of worship in the Sacramento area of California.

Scores of my colleagues from across the political spectrum are joining me in this resolution. I ask all of my colleagues to join and express unanimously our condemnation of these outrageous acts and provide assistance to all relevant agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice.

SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate New Hampshire's participation in the 33rd Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival beginning tomorrow on the National Mall.

This festival is a celebration of the history, heritage, and culture that makes the Granite State one of a kind. More than 140 participants will be in the national spotlight exemplifying what has made New Hampshire such a beautiful, important, and unique State for the past 23 years.

The spectacular event will also include a celebration of New Hampshire's political history, as well as its essential role as the traditional host of the first-in-the-Nation Presidential primary.

Over the next 2 weeks, more than 1 million people will join representatives from New Hampshire, South Africa, and Romania in showcasing their traditions and customs through expeditions of music, dance, food, crafts, storytelling, and art.

I am extremely proud to have my home State represented here in the Nation's Capital, and I encourage everyone to find their way down to the National Mall to help New Hampshire celebrate its proud history and culture.

COMPANIES MOVING OVERSEAS AND AMERICA IS LOSING JOBS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Hanover Shoe Company of Franklin, West Virginia is moving overseas. Another 350 jobs going overseas. But the workers have been told, and I quote, "Do not worry. You will find a job."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Every day, good paying manufacturing jobs going overseas, being replaced by minimum wage service-sector jobs. Enough is enough. A superpower does not act like a colony.

The sad truth is "made in America" is now street talk for teen pregnancy.

I yield back all the minimum wage part-time jobs without benefits in these United States of America.

STAND UP TO THE GREEDY HAND OF GOVERNMENT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Paine, a true patriot and American hero who, of course, is no longer taught in many public schools today, once wrote: "We still find the greedy hand of government thrusting itself into every corner and crevice of industry and grasping the spoil of the multitude."

Although students today no longer find The Rights of Man on their reading lists, they would do well to take heed of Thomas Paine's observation that the government has an inevitable tendency to seek to expand its power and to confiscate the fruits of our labor. It is like a law of nature. Anyone who disputes this fact is invited to step forward and call his first witness.

Government grows and grows, and it commands more and more of what we earn. Taxes go up and our freedom necessarily is reduced. Republicans believe that the greedy hand of government has reached too far, and that Americans have seen too many of their freedoms reduced. It is time to stand up to the greedy hand of government.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, many Democrats in the House of Representatives are working together to lower the cost of prescription drugs. We are asking this Congress to pass the Prescription Drug Fairness Act.

Unfortunately, the drug companies and my friends on the other side of the aisle do not seem much interested in letting this pass.

□ 1415

The drug companies will give lower prices to HMOs, they will give lower drug prices to hospitals, they will give lower drug prices to insurance companies and to the VA, but they charge senior citizens out of pocket literally twice as much in many cases for prescription drugs than they do these preferred buyers.

The prescription drug companies are banding together to oppose the Prescription Drug Fairness Act on the House floor. They say that this legislation will stifle innovation and hurt research. They say it will cost them so much money they will not be able to continue to develop new drugs. They do not say anything, Mr. Speaker, about huge executive drug companies' salaries. They do not say anything about record \$22 billion drug company profits.

They do not say anything about marketing, about salespeople and about the multimillion-dollar lobbying company campaign they are foisting upon us.

TRIBUTE TO WARDELL YATAGHAN

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wardell Yataghan, a gentleman who recently passed away and was president of the Resident Council of Rockwell Gardens, a public housing development in Chicago and a founder of the Coalition to Save Public Housing.

Wardell, unfortunately, died too soon, but he gave his life as an inspiration and as a light for those who live in public housing. And I think as a testament to him, I want to urge that we continue to support public housing in the United States.

JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S CONGRESS

(Mr. NETHERCUTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, today, this week, children from every State in the Union have come to Washington to participate in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Children's Congress. As the cochairman of the House Diabetes Caucus, which boasts 265 Members of this body who have dedicated themselves to trying to find a cure for diabetes, it is fitting that we pay tribute to these young people who came here today and participated in a ceremony on the west front of the Capitol to highlight the need to cure diabetes.

This is not only an adult disease, it is a child's disease, a cruel children's disease that affects millions of people in this country. It is necessary, it is appropriate that this Congress devote adequate resources to try to find a cure for disease through research.

So I am happy to join all the other Members of the caucus in saluting the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and all the children who participated here today.

I am especially proud of Nancy Stockton, the delegate from Cheney, Washington. Nancy is a tribute to her family, her community and all young people with diabetes.

CONGRESS MUST PASS COMMON SENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week, in the dead of the night, the Republican leadership responded to the

tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, by trying to weaken gun safety laws. Instead of taking up the bipartisan measures already approved by the other Chamber, the Republican leadership joined with the NRA to kill common-sense gun safety measures and blow holes in the Brady law. Now, we are back to square one.

But I am an optimist, and I believe that this body can do what is right for America. I call on my colleagues to meet us halfway, close the loophole once and for all that allows criminals to arm themselves at gun shows without any background check at all. Let us ensure that handguns are sold with child safety locks so that children do not accidentally hurt themselves or anyone else when they find a weapon at home.

These are mainstream ideas that parents and families in the country want passed. The cost of delay is steep. Thirteen children are killed every day with guns. One hundred thousand guns are brought to schools every year. Let us take up gun legislation that will keep guns in responsible hands.

REPUBLICANS WANT TO CUT TAXES, NOT INCREASE THEM

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are arguing among themselves about which taxes they want to raise, about how to come up with additional revenue. Anyone who has any doubt about the truth of this statement need merely consult with statements made by the President, the House minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), and the minority leader in the other body, TOM DASCHLE.

The President said this past January, while in Buffalo, New York, that he was opposed to giving the surplus back to the American taxpayers who produced it because, "You might not spend it right." The President thinks that the government knows better how to spend our money than the people who earned it.

The House minority leader stated his vision of expanding the Federal education bureaucracy by cutting defense and raising taxes. In fact, he said he would be proud to do it.

And now we have the minority leader in the other body who just this past weekend said that tax increases were on the table. Maybe on the Democrats' table, but they are not on the Republicans' table. In fact, we are debating which taxes to cut.

Let us reduce the taxes on the people of this Nation.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 987

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be

removed as a cosponsor of the bill H.R. 987.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House a communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 22, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 21, 1999 at 1:21 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 105.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later today.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PROSTATE CANCER

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 211) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of raising public awareness of prostate cancer, and of regular testing and examinations in the fight against prostate cancer.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 211

Whereas nearly 180,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1999, and an estimated 37,000 men will die of the disease;

Whereas prostate cancer is the second most common form of cancer among men and the second leading cause of cancer death among men;

Whereas prostate cancer can often be treated successfully if detected early on, although most symptoms are nonspecific and there are few reliable risk factors;

Whereas education and regular testing and examinations are critical to detecting and treating prostate cancer in a timely manner;

Whereas the American Cancer Society recommends that all men aged 50 and over have annual examinations and tests for prostate

cancer, and that African American men and men with family histories of prostate cancer, who are at higher risk for the disease, should consider taking such steps at an earlier age;

Whereas the House of Representatives as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the detection and treatment of prostate cancer and to support the fight against prostate cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all American men should take an active role in the fight against prostate cancer by all the means that are available to them, including regular testing and medical examinations;

(2) the role played by national and community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of the importance of regular examinations and testing for prostate cancer, and in providing related information, support, and access to services, should be recognized and applauded;

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) endeavor to raise awareness about the importance of the early detection of, and proper treatment for, prostate cancer;

(B) continue to fund research so that the causes of, and improved treatment for, prostate cancer may be discovered; and

(C) continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation under consideration, H. Res. 211, and to insert extraneous material in the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, of course, in support of H. Res. 211, a resolution to raise public awareness of prostate cancer and convey the importance of regular testing and examinations to fight this terrible disease. I am proud to be an original cosponsor, and certainly it is very fitting that we all pay tribute to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), who has worked so very hard on this legislation and was able to keep pushing it so we could get it to this particular point.

According to the National Institutes of Health, prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer in American men. The National Cancer Institute reports that over 200,000 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in the United States in 1997 alone. Tragically, approximately 40,000 men will die of the disease this year.

Since testing for early detection of prostate cancer became relatively com-

mon, the prostate cancer death rate has declined. However, too many lives are still lost to this disease because it is not detected early enough or because treatment is received too late. It is critical, critical that American men use all available means to fight prostate cancer, including regular testing and medical examinations.

The resolution before us today encourages men to be active in the battle against prostate cancer. It also encourages national and community organizations, along with health care providers, to promote the importance of medical examinations and testing.

In addition, this resolution emphasizes the Federal Government's responsibility to provide the necessary resources to fund research to determine the causes of and treatments for prostate cancer.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment of the Committee on Commerce, I have been a strong supporter, as have so very many others, of increasing the Federal Government's commitment to biomedical research. In particular, I have endorsed the proposal to double Federal funding for the NIH over 5 years.

In an effort to provide additional funding for NIH research efforts, I have introduced H.R. 785, the Biomedical Research Assistance Voluntary Option, or BRAVO, as we call it, Act. My bill would allow taxpayers to designate a portion of any Federal income tax refund to support biomedical research to the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the war against cancer is far from over. Today, the House of Representatives can play a supportive role in the fight against prostate cancer by increasing public awareness about the importance of early detection and treatment of prostate cancer. I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 211.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The resolution we are considering today is important, and we are pleased to cooperate with the majority's request to discharge it from the Committee on Commerce on an expedited basis. We hope and expect that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will extend the same consideration for issues that we hold important. Our goal must be to work in a timely manner and on a bipartisan basis so that beneficial initiatives can move through this Congress.

One out of ten men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime. One out of ten. Forty thousand men will die from it each year. Early detection is critical, and raising awareness about the disease is the best way to promote regular testing.

This resolution says we can play a unique role in our districts and through this Congress on the national level also through national exposure to

raise public awareness about prostate cancer.

In 1994, I founded the Northeast Ohio Breast and Prostate Cancer Task Force to help organize efforts at the local level to combat these cancers. Last Sunday, at Jacobs Field in Cleveland, I had the honor of presenting an award to the Cleveland Indians' Mike Hargrove and Jim Thome on behalf of the team for their support for prostate cancer research. This award is part of the Association for the Cure of Cancer of the Prostate and Major League Baseball's 1999 Home Run Challenge. During Father's Day Week, June 20 to 25, every home run hit in 60 selected games will raise money directed towards prostate cancer research.

This resolution today, Mr. Speaker, is a statement of the need to do more to fight prostate cancer and to help men who have this illness. But this Congress can and should do much more. We should pass the Patients' Bill of Rights, which would protect prostate cancer patients from arbitrary coverage denials and ensure their access to the right specialists and to clinical trials.

We should be aggressive in bringing down the cost of prescription drugs and pass the Prescription Drugs Fairness Act. Drug company markups place barriers in the way of life-saving medicine.

And we should move quickly to pass the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act.

We should follow through, Mr. Speaker, with initiatives that help prevent and treat prostate cancer and other illnesses that take such a tremendous toll on our families and on our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of the prostate cancer awareness resolution.

I wish to thank the minority for allowing this to be expedited through the committee process, and as I said a minute ago, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), as well as the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), and the rest of the House leadership. This is a very important resolution to not only myself, but many hundreds of thousands of other men around the country who may be affected by prostate cancer.

Now, last week during National Men's Health Week, which concluded on Father's Day, there was a lot of discussion about the most serious of health issues facing men, and one of them at least is prostate cancer.

□ 1430

This year 180,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer; and, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) mentioned, 40,000 will die of the disease.

Prostate cancer, in fact, is the second leading cause of cancer among men, second only to skin cancer; and it is the second leading cause of cancer death among men. This cancer can often be treated successfully if it is detected early, but most symptoms are nonspecific and there are very few reliable risk factors. Therefore, two of the most important weapons against prostate cancer are education and timely testing.

The American Cancer Society recommends that men 50 or over talk with their health care professionals about having annual exams and tests for prostate cancer and that African-American men and men with family histories of prostate cancer, who are at higher risk for the disease, should consider taking steps at an earlier age.

This House, as an institution, and we, as Members of Congress, are in unique positions to support efforts against prostate cancer. This resolution expresses the sense of the House that, firstly, all men should take an active role in the fight against prostate cancer and by all the means that are available to them; secondly, that the role of national and community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of prostate cancer and in providing related information, support, and access to services should be recognized and applauded; and lastly, that the Federal Government has the responsibility to continue to raise awareness, fund research, and consider ways to improve access to and the quality of services for detecting and treating prostate cancer.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in supporting this resolution, working in our districts to get out the word, not only on Father's Day but every day, that prostate cancer is a killer. We need to educate. We need to talk to our doctors. Timely treatment is what counts.

I urge support and adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Eshoo) who has been a real leader in the fight against breast and prostate cancer on the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and good friend from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for yielding me the time.

I want to first of all rise in support of this very important resolution and the intent that it carries. I would like to pay tribute to my colleague the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and certainly the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) our subcommittee chairman, who are great supporters of this very good thing. So I want to salute them for that and thank them for bringing this resolution to the floor.

After all, who amongst us can be opposed to something like this? We know

the toll that cancer takes on the American people, most specifically, with men in this country.

Yesterday we celebrated a magnificent holiday for our Nation's fathers. I certainly missed mine, who went to heaven about a year and a half ago. And as we bring this resolution to the floor around Father's Day, I also want to rise to speak about an issue that is important to mothers, fathers, families across this country; and that is breast and cervical cancer.

When the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and myself introduced a bill in the House, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act, we made a pledge at that press conference that by Mother's Day our goal was to secure the majority of the House of Representatives in support of that legislation. Well, we not only did that. Mother's Day came and went. It passed. We now have 250 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle in support of this bill.

I think it is very important that the House Committee on Commerce take this bill up in a hearing so that it can be examined. Because the majority of the members of the committee are cosponsors, including the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) our subcommittee chairman.

Now, why this bill? In 1999, the House of Representatives passed a very important and good piece of legislation. That piece of legislation directed the Center for Disease Control, the CDC, to conduct early screening for breast and cervical cancer. It has been a very successful program, but it stopped short of something. And that is, when detection takes place and cancer is discovered either in the cervix or the breast, we now say to American women they are on their own for treatment.

This great Nation can do better than this. And so, the legislation moves beyond where we are now. It offers a carrot to the States where we offer more money in Medicaid for under-insured and uninsured women. We all have these constituents amongst us. We have heard their eloquent testimonies, very sad testimonies, too many of us.

And so, I urge that all of the members of the House Committee on Commerce, most specifically our leadership, to schedule a hearing on this bill so that we can move forward and also to a markup. I think it is an important step for the women and the families of our Nation. By next Mother's Day, hopefully, we will have this legislation in law.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, more than anything else, I would like to say to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Eshoo), through the Chair, that if her ears were ringing yesterday, it was because she was the subject of fairly lengthy conversations at the CDC in Atlanta, where the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and I and a number of staff members attended. Part of the discus-

sion was involving the situation that she is trying to solve, and we asked a number of questions in that regard.

As I have told the gentlewoman previously, I am committed to at least holding a hearing on this legislation in the very near future and, hopefully, get it on its way.

Insofar as the managed care problem, which the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) mentioned, the Patients Protection Act is moving. We are applying due diligence to the situation. I might add that the problem in managed care is not a new problem, it is a problem that existed for many, many years. And it is this particular Congress, along with the prior Congress, which is trying to solve the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the prostate cancer awareness resolution and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act.

I commend my colleague from New Hampshire for bringing awareness to the fight against prostate cancer. Thirty-seven thousand men will die from prostate cancer this year, 2,400 in my State of New York alone. I applaud the efforts of the community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of and access to regular exams and testing. But, unfortunately, awareness is only half the battle. Once a cancer is diagnosed, it is perhaps even more cruel if it must go untreated. Yet this is a situation that thousands of people have had to face.

Currently, the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides cancer screening services for low-income women who have little or no health insurance. Yet cruelly, after being diagnosed, these women have no means with which to get treatment. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act will give States the option to provide Medicaid coverage to these women. While Congress must continue to advocate cancer awareness, it cannot continue to promote screening and early detection without providing a means for treatment.

I urge the leadership and Members of the Committee on Commerce to take action on the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act and for the House to pass the prostate cancer awareness resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), a nurse and a new member of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution on prostate cancer. But I also want to take a moment to speak on the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act.

As a nurse, I am very concerned about prostate cancer and I am glad

that we are raising awareness of this serious disease which kills approximately 40,000 men a year in this country. I thank the chair and the leadership of our Subcommittee on Health and the Environment the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for introducing this resolution, which I wholeheartedly support. Yet, I am very disappointed that the Committee on Commerce has yet to address the Breast and Cervical Treatment Act.

This bill, introduced by my colleagues the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), currently has 250 sponsors. The majority of the House of Representatives support the enactment of this treatment bill. And yet we see no plans for floor action in sight.

Here to my right on the screen my colleagues will see the list of agencies and groups, strong groups in this country, health groups, who support this legislation being enacted. These are our constituents across the country. They want us to move ahead on this legislation, and we need to pay heed to their strong recommendation.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act gives States the option to provide Medicaid coverage to uninsured or under-insured women who have already been diagnosed through our National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. But once they have this wrenching diagnosis, they have nowhere to turn for treatment. All the screening in the world will not help if women who are diagnosed with this disease do not have access to quality treatment for their condition.

Just a few minutes ago, I was visited in my offices here by a dozen or so representatives of the AAUW, the American Association of University Women, who are here on the Hill today talking about their issues. And my group was here from Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County.

I told them what I was going to be speaking about on the floor, and they said, yes, we have friends, we have people in our community for whom this fact is a reality, women diagnosed with no place to turn for treatment.

With 250 bipartisan cosponsors of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act, we need in this House to take action now. We have a chance today to help millions of men with prostate cancer. I support this opportunity and thank our House for taking the lead here to do this.

Let us also take the opportunity to do more than resolve, to actually help survivors of breast and cervical cancer, as well.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.Res. 211, to raise public awareness

of prostate cancer. I want to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) the introducer of this resolution. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer in men. One out of every five men will develop prostate cancer at some point during his life. As a matter of fact, I have two brothers who have prostate cancer. And there are many parallels between prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women. Like breast cancer in women, the risk of having prostate cancer increases with age.

The American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 180,000 new cases of prostate cancer and 175,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in 1999. Prostate cancer kills about 37,000 men each year, and breast cancer kills over 46,000 women. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men, and breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women after lung cancer.

Recently, I attended the opening of an expanded Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Center in Rockville, Maryland. This research facility will work in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health in nearby Bethesda, Maryland. I am proud that this premier research corridor looking into the prevention, early detection, and cure for prostate cancer is in my congressional district.

I want to take a moment also to highlight another important piece of legislation, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, H.R. 1070. This bill would amend the Social Security Act to give States the option of expanding medical assistance coverage to include women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer. It has over 249 cosponsors. Yet, we have not had any further action scheduled on this important legislation.

I agree with the men's prostate cancer support group called, "Us Too!" I must say, I am also part of a support group calling for consideration both in committee and on the House Floor for H.R. 1070, we could say, "H.R. 1070, too!"

I reiterate my support for H.Res. 211. And I compliment again my colleague the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his leadership and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) the subcommittee chairman for bringing this bill on the floor today.

□ 1445

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

I rise to congratulate and commend all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have played a leadership role on this issue. But I would like to go beyond commending them, to commend three individuals who have done

extraordinarily important things on behalf of this cause of fighting prostate cancer: General Schwarzkopf, the hero of the Persian Gulf War, Senator Bob Dole, and philanthropist Michael Milken. Mr. Milken, through his Cap Cure Foundation, has devoted untold resources and unimaginable energy to dealing with prostate cancer, and I am proud to publicly recognize his significant contribution.

I would also like to associate myself with the comments of my colleagues from California (Ms. ESHOO and Ms. CAPPS) who talked of breast and cervical cancer problems. As we deal with prostate cancer, I think we have a moral obligation to deal with the issue of breast and cervical cancer.

I call on all of my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to deal with both of these critical health issues affecting millions of American families.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution, which is designed to raise public awareness of prostate cancer. Prevention, access to health care, awareness, early detection, all of these are ingredients which help save lives.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of death among American men, causing over 39,000 deaths a year. Unfortunately for African American men, prostate cancer rates are the highest in the world. In the last 5 years, the death rate for prostate cancer has more than doubled the death rate of breast cancer, which is extremely high and must be acted upon immediately. Unfortunately for African American males, this is one of the most deadly diseases in the world.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those churches, community organizations and other groups in my district who have been promoting awareness by putting into their Sunday bulletins messages about men getting checkups and physicals and going to the doctor.

My father is 88 years old, recently diagnosed a few years ago with prostate cancer, but is a survivor and is alive because of the early detection.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we support these two measures.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, if you reach age 40, the statistics in America are quite clear. You will live to be a wise senior citizen if you can avoid the two big takers of life, heart attack and cancer. We fund many issues. Some of them are highly sensationalized, with

much press and hype. But I say it is time to wage an all-out war on cancer. It is overdue, and it must, in fact, involve all our efforts.

I want to applaud the efforts of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) here today, one of the fine chairmen in the House. His heart is in the right place. He has worked very hard on this. I want to compliment the distinguished gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his leadership, and I want to compliment my neighbor, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for his work on health-related issues.

I would also like to advise the Congress to support and work with the efforts of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN). The health-related issues facing this Congress are some of the most important issues facing the American people. I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) be permitted to control the remainder of my time for consideration of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Indiana. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of this resolution. Prostate cancer comes in four stages. Approximately 6 years ago, my then 51-year-old brother went to the doctor because he was having problems. He found that he was in stage four of prostate cancer. Still we did not give up hope. Still we prayed a lot, held hands a lot, talked a lot. But in the final end, he did not make it, and he died. He died a very horrible and agonizing death. I will never forget it as long as I live. It has affected me dramatically.

I hope my brother's pain and suffering does not go in vain, because today I have the opportunity to evoke his name and support this resolution, and hopefully all that pain and suffering, if we can save at least one life in America through this resolution or through this speech, if we can just save one life in America because of this resolution today, the meaninglessness and pointlessness of his pain and suffering will not go in vain.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me this time.

I thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for their leadership and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for his leadership.

I am not a member of the committee of jurisdiction, but I come to the floor with a personal commentary to support the passage of this resolution dealing with prostate cancer and the enhanced opportunities to educate the American public and men about the dangers and the devastation of prostate cancer. I lost my father 3 years ago to prostate cancer. I will always be reminded of the fact that his life was shortened because of lack of early detection and education about this devastating disease.

There are an estimated 179,300 new cases of prostate cancer this year, and prostate cancer rates for African American men are significantly higher than the rates for white men. African American men have higher incidences of prostate cancer than any other ethnic group in the world since the disease is rare in Asia, Africa and South America.

The incidence of prostate cancer increases as men age. More than 75 percent of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over 65. Men over age 50 should have tests done every year. And, of course, African American men should be tested at an even earlier age.

I serve on M.D. Anderson Hospital's prostate cancer advisory committee, and I would say that the best celebration and commemoration we could give to our fathers across the land no matter what their ethnic background is to encourage them to get early testing and to not be afraid to go to the doctors.

I also support the passage, if you will, of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. I believe that as we fight the deadly disease of cancer, there can be no excessive amount of legislation that deals with these devastating diseases. I would offer my support for the resolution dealing with prostate cancer. I would ask all my colleagues to heartily support us in our fight to end this deadly disease.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with the men of this House to urge public awareness of prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the second most common form of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death. Education and regular testing are crucial to survival because prostate cancer can be treated successfully if it is found early.

I support this resolution today because it expresses our sense that public awareness, regular testing, early detection and treatment are critical to survival.

There are an estimated 179,300 new cases of prostate cancer this year. Prostate cancer rates for African American men are significantly higher than the rates for white men. African American men have higher incidences of prostate cancer than any other ethnic group in the world since this disease is rare in Asia, Africa and South America. My father who I loved dearly, Ezra Jackson, died three years ago from prostate cancer. My uncle died of the disease as well. We should be diligent in helping all men to learn about the disease and get early testing. This resolution will help some live.

The incidence of prostate cancer increases as men age—more than 75% of all prostate

cancers are diagnosed in men over 65. Thus, it is crucial for men to have regular checkups for early detection. Men over age 50 should have tests done every year. African American men should be tested at an even earlier age.

The federal government has an important role to play in raising public awareness about this disease. We must continue to support research and treatment efforts to improve the chances of survival for men diagnosed with prostate cancer. We should also encourage more efforts to improve access to care for men, particularly low-income, traditionally underserved patients.

I support these efforts to battle this deadly disease. Prostate cancer will kill 37,000 American men this year. I hope that through the collective resources of the federal government, local and community health services, and through public awareness and education, we can one day refer to this disease in the past tense. Finally, Mr. Speaker I hope we will also move to the floor H.R. 1070, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act—which will also help to save lives—the many women who have or will suffer from this dreadful disease.

New Cases: An estimated 179,300 new cases in the US during 1999. Prostate cancer incidence rates remain significantly higher in African-American men than in white men. Between 1989 and 1992, prostate cancer incidence rates increased dramatically, probably due to earlier diagnosis in men without any symptoms, by increased use of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test screenings. Between 1993 and 1995, prostate cancer incidence rates declined, primarily among white men.

Deaths: An estimated 37,000 deaths in 1999, the second leading cause of cancer death in men. During 1991-1995, prostate cancer mortality rates declined significantly (-1.6% per year). Like the decreasing trends in incidence, the trends in mortality occurred primarily among white men. Mortality rates in African-American men remain more than twice as high as rates in white men.

Signs and Symptoms: Weak or interrupted urine flow; inability to urinate, or difficulty starting or stopping the urine flow; the need to urinate frequently, especially at night; blood in the urine; pain or burning on urination; continuing pain in lower back, pelvis, or upper thighs. Most of these symptoms are nonspecific and may be similar to those caused by benign conditions such as infection or prostate enlargement.

Risk Factors: The incidence of prostate cancer increases with age; more than 75% of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over age 65. African Americans have the highest prostate cancer incidence rates in the world; the disease is common in North America and Northwestern Europe and is rare in Asia, Africa, and South America. Recent genetic studies suggest that an inherited predisposition may be responsible for 5%-10% of prostate cancers. International studies suggest that dietary fat may also be a factor.

Early Detection: Men age 50 and older who have at least a 10-year life expectancy should talk with their health care professional about having a digital rectal exam of the prostate gland and a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test every year. Men who are at high risk for prostate cancer (African Americans or men who have a history of prostate cancer in close family members) should consider beginning these tests at an earlier age.

Treatment: Depending on age, stage of the cancer, and other medical conditions of the patient, surgery and radiation should be discussed with the patient's physicians. Hormones and chemotherapy or combinations of

these options might be considered for metastatic disease. Hormone treatment may control prostate cancer for long periods by shrinking the size of the tumor, thus relieving pain. Careful observation without immediate active treatment ("watchful waiting") may be appropriate, particularly for older individuals with low-grade and/or early stage tumors.

Survival: Sixty percent of all prostate cancers are discovered while still localized; the 5-year relative survival rate for patients whose tumors are diagnosed at this stage is 100%. Over the past 20 years, the survival rate for all stages combined has increased from 67% to 93%. Survival after a diagnosis of prostate cancer continues to decline beyond five years. According to the most recent data, 68% of men diagnosed with prostate cancer survive 10 years and 52% survive 15 years.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the debate today and appreciate the good efforts of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) on that side and the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL), the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) on my side.

I especially ask this House with bipartisan cooperation to pass H. Res. 211 but also move forward on the Prescription Drug Fairness Act, on the Patients' Bill of Rights, and on the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act. If we could accomplish those health care issues this year, this will have been a very successful Congress.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 211, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution which expressed the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of raising public awareness about prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is one of the most serious health issues facing men. One in five men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. According to the National Institutes of Health, this year nearly 185,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 39,000 men will die. Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer among men, and the second leading cause of cancer death in men. The most important thing to know about prostate cancer is that it can be treated successfully if detected early.

As you know, my predecessor, the late Congressman Dean Gallo died of prostate cancer in 1994, having been diagnosed late in his disease. Dean was a fighter for New Jersey but sadly he could not fight prostate cancer successfully. Despite Dean's death his memory lives on in the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, New Jersey is 17th among all 50 states in the incidence of prostate cancer and 8th among African Americans.

Congress has declared a war on cancer, in any of its forms, and we must continue to provide the bullets to fight this war in our dedication to raising awareness about cancer, and

the commitment to increase funding for cancer research.

Remember, prostate cancer may kill, but it does not have to. Early detection can save a life. I say to all men, see your doctor for a prostate examination today; take a P.S.A. annually.

Mr. Speaker, I think my good friend from New Hampshire, Mr. BASS, for introducing this important resolution.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 211, a sense of the Congress on Raising Awareness of Prostate Cancer.

One out of every five men is at lifetime risk for prostate cancer. While about every third male over age 50 probably already has prostate cancer in some form and does not know it; roughly one-quarter of those who are stricken, will get a life-threatening form of the disease.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men (after lung cancer) and, excluding skin cancer, is the most common cancer in American men. Early prostate cancer often does not cause symptoms, and most people find out about their prostate cancer too late, even though the cancer can be detected in most cases with a simple, inexpensive blood test.

While the American Cancer Society and several other groups recommend that every man over age 50 get tested once a year, and General Schwarzkopf, a man who has undergone prostate surgery, said prostate cancer testing saved his life. Society still talks about prostate cancer after the fact rather than talking about the test that could quickly arrest prostate cancer in the early beginning.

The disease touches the lives of millions of men and their families, yet myths and misunderstandings about prostate cancer remain common.

Learning about prostate cancer, who's at risk and how to fight it is a crucial first step in overcoming this problem. The more you know about Prostate Cancer, the better equipped you are to fight it.

We are here today, to end the public embarrassment about prostate cancer and begin the process of making men more aware of what this disease can do and what they must do to protect themselves. Too many men have died because they made the mistake of ignoring the devastating effect of prostate cancer.

Today we can start turning the tide. Support this resolution.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and the ranking member, Mr. BROWN, for bringing this resolution before the House today.

No one can doubt the value of increasing public awareness of prostate cancer. Screening and testing can lead to early detection and effective treatment of this all-too-common form of cancer.

But while I strongly support this resolution, I cannot help but note the contrast between our eagerness to act here—even without committee consideration—with the failure of our committee to consider another important piece of legislation, a very reasonable and broadly supported bill to provide the option of Medicaid treatment for low-income women with breast cancer.

I am proud to be one of nearly 250 cosponsors of H.R. 1070. This bill was introduced by

Congressman LAZIO and Congresswoman ESHOO to remedy the inexcusable situation we have now, where we screen low-income women for breast cancer, but then are unable to provide timely treatment when the condition is discovered.

This legislation provides States the option to provide that treatment under Medicaid.

It is a bill that has broad support, both inside and outside the Congress. Yet we have held no hearings on this bill in subcommittee. We have no schedule to mark it up.

If we did act to bring this bill to the House floor, I feel certain it would enjoy the same broad support as the resolution we have before us today.

So while I commend Mr. BILIRAKIS for his efforts on the prostate cancer resolution, I also hope we will soon again be on this House floor discussing the imminent passage of H.R. 1070. The women of America suffering from breast cancer deserve no less.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Res. 211, which underscores our nation's support for prostate cancer research and testing. All too often, men and their families remain silent about this deadly disease, which will claim the lives of an estimated 37,000 individuals this year alone.

It is critical that our nation starts to talk about prostate cancer in order to increase our awareness about early testing and treatment options. We in the Congress took an important step in fighting this condition by providing Medicare coverage for the prostate specific antigen blood test (PSA) and the digital rectal exam (DRE). I, along with a bipartisan group of House members recently urged HCFA to implement coverage for these procedures in the most timely manner possible. By providing this critical coverage, we can save the lives of thousands of men, while saving Medicare a substantial amount of funding.

We can also provide real hope for the 180,000 men who are estimated to be diagnosed with prostate cancer by investing in research. We still have a long way to go before we really understand the risk factors associated with the disease. It is my hope that the National Institutes of Health and other Federal agencies will continue their groundbreaking research into this disease.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution, which clearly states our commitment to treating and eventually curing this terrible disease.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 211.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOCATING AND SECURING RETURN OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1175) to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1175

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Zachary Baumel, a United States citizen serving in the Israeli military forces, has been missing in action since June 1982 when he was captured by forces affiliated with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) following a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

(2) Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman, Israeli citizens serving in the Israeli military forces, have been missing in action since June 1982 when they were also captured by these same forces in a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

(3) these three soldiers were last known to be in the hands of a Palestinian faction splintered from the PLO and operating in Syrian-controlled territory, thus making this a matter within the responsibility of the Government of Syria;

(4) diplomatic efforts to secure the release of these individuals have been unsuccessful, although PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat delivered one-half of Zachary Baumel's dog tag to Israeli Government authorities; and

(5) in the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel of May 4, 1994, Palestinian officials agreed to cooperate with Israel in locating and working for the return of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

SEC. 2. ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MISSING SOLDIERS.

(a) CONTINUING COMMUNICATION WITH CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS.—The Secretary of State shall continue to raise the matter of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman on an urgent basis with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and with other governments in the region and elsewhere that, in the determination of the Secretary, may be helpful in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

(b) PROVISION OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS.—In deciding whether or not to provide United States economic and other forms of assistance to Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region, and in deciding United States policy toward these governments and authorities, the President should take into consideration the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the return of the soldiers described in subsection (a).

SEC. 3. REPORTS BY SECRETARY OF STATE.

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a written report that describes the efforts of the Secretary pursuant to section 2(a) and United States policies affected pursuant to section 2(b).

(b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after receiving from any source any

additional information relating to the individuals described in section 2(a), the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit to the committees described in subsection (a) a written report that contains such additional information.

(c) FORM OF REPORTS.—A report submitted under subsection (a) or (b) shall be made available to the public and may include a classified annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this measure before us today, H.R. 1175, is on behalf of three Israeli MIAs, one of whom, Zachary Baumel, is a dual American-Israeli national.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for sponsoring this measure. I have worked closely, as has the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), with the Baumel, the Feldman and the Katz families since 1983 trying to locate and to secure the return of sons from the battle of Sultan Yakub in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in 1982 while they were engaged against Syrian forces.

It has been a long 17 years since those Israeli soldiers faced Syrian forces in Lebanon's Bekaa valley on June 11, 1982. These soldiers were declared missing on that day, and all efforts since then, which have spanned the globe, have not brought them back to their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Baumel deserve answers, as do the Feldman and Katz families. I want to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Baumel, who are with us today to witness House consideration of this measure on behalf of their son and his military colleagues. They have been tireless in their quest to obtain their son's release or information with regard to their son.

Accordingly, H.R. 1175 emphasizes the importance which Congress places on helping these families locate their sons. We hope the State Department appreciates the priority that we have given to this critical humanitarian issue.

It reflects language that has been negotiated with the State Department which requires the Department of State to raise the missing in action of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman with appropriate government

officials of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority.

This measure also requires our Nation to raise the issue with other governments which may be helpful in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

H.R. 1175 also requires a written report and follow-up action from the Department of State to the Congress.

The legislation further notes that our Nation should take into consideration the willingness of regional governments to assist in locating and securing the return of these soldiers when reviewing U.S. financial assistance programs.

Regrettably, despite the fact that the Syrian government is in a position to assist with this investigation, appeals made to President Hafiz al-Assad has gone unanswered. Moreover, inquiries to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have met with a dead end.

Nonetheless, Congress continues to be extremely concerned about the lack of resolution of these cases and wants to make certain that the administration utilizes all of our available avenues in order to return these men to their families. This is evidenced by the fact that H.R. 1175 has now been cosponsored by almost 100 Members of this body.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to strongly support H.R. 1175, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. First I want to pay tribute to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations for his outstanding leadership on this very important issue. I also want to thank over 100 of my colleagues across the political spectrum who have chosen to cosponsor my legislation.

□ 1500

Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself fully with the remarks of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and I would like to add a few thoughts.

In 1991, our ambassador to Israel, the distinguished ambassador, William Brown, wrote a letter to the Israeli Coordinator for Lebanese Affairs, and I would like to quote from that letter: "Without the statesmanship that Israel demonstrated, I do not believe that we would be celebrating so soon the release of all American hostages."

This is the time, Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will recall, that there were numbers of American hostages held by various Palestinian and Arab terrorist groups and governments, and the Israeli government played a pivotal role in the release of these hostages, including Terry Anderson. It is only appropriate that we now do the same thing for Israel that they did for us.

This bill calls on our State Department to do everything in its power in contacting all the relevant governments and other groups in the region

to obtain the release of these three young men who have been imprisoned for 17 long years. The time is long overdue to bring their nightmare and the anguish of their families to an end.

We Americans know all too well, Mr. Speaker, the bitter legacy of missing soldiers and prisoners of war. That legacy can haunt a Nation, and it interferes with the effort of building new and better relations with the countries that are involved. At a time when Israel has a new government, at a time when there is new consideration being given to Syrian-Israeli negotiations and the achievement, at long last, of peace between those two nations, I believe it is incumbent on Mr. Asaad, President of Syria, and all other leaders in the region to deal with the issue of these three young men who have been languishing in prisons for 17 years.

In 1993, Mr. Speaker, Yasser Arafat conveyed to the late Prime Minister Rabin half of the dog tag of one of these young men. We have had constant indications over the years that these three young men are alive and in prison. The time has come to put an end to their incarceration and suffering and to allow their families to be reunited with them.

I want to pay particular tribute, Mr. Speaker, to the parents of Zachary Baumel, Miriam and Yona Baumel, who are sitting in the gallery today. As a parent myself, I do not think I can fully appreciate the 17-year ordeal they have endured. They have worked tirelessly on behalf of their son and the other two soldiers. They have visited communities across this Nation. They have met with countless Members of this House and of the Senate. I hope and pray that at long last their heroic efforts on behalf of these three young men will come to a fruitful conclusion.

I also want to applaud the efforts of the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers for spearheading the grassroots effort to bring this bill to passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The Chair reminds all Members to refrain from references to visitors in the gallery.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1175, a bill introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative TOM LANTOS. I am proud to be one of 91 cosponsors of this important bipartisan initiative, which will help to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

The United States has a unique responsibility to ensure the security of Israel—a steadfast ally and strategic partner in democracy. The United States also has an unquestionable responsibility to secure the well-being of its citizens when possible, no matter where they may be located.

Zachary Baumel is an American citizen. He has been missing since 1982, when he was

captured following a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya' akub in Lebanon. At the time, Mr. Baumel was serving in the Israeli military. It is important to note that Mr. Baumel's service in Israel at no time altered his status as an American citizen.

I feel strongly that the United States should make every effort to secure information as to the whereabouts of Zachary Baumel as well as insist upon his release. I also would hope that the United States would support efforts made by Israel to secure the release of Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, two Israeli citizens who served in the Israeli military and were captured along with Zachary Baumel at Sultan Ya' akub in Lebanon.

Yasser Arafat of the PLO provided evidence to Israeli government officials that Zachary Baumel was alive and that Mr. Arafat had information as to his whereabouts. In the Gaza-Jericho agreement reached between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government, Palestinian officials agreed to cooperate with Israel in locating and working for the return of Israeli soldiers missing in action. Five years have passed since the Gaza-Jericho agreement and Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman are still missing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill. It is imperative that the U.S. Department of State raise the issue of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz on an urgent basis with the appropriate government officials which may be helpful in locating and securing the return of these soldiers. The United States government must remain vigilant in its efforts to locate these brave soldiers, who have been missing for more than 17 years.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1175, introduced by Congressman Lantos.

Mr. Chairman, for seventeen years, the fate of three missing Israeli soldiers has remained a mystery that has haunted their families and their nations.

On June 11, 1982, Zachary Baumel, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman were captured in northeastern Lebanon, in a battle with Syrian and Palestinian forces. The PLO had custody of the three soldiers for the first year and a half of their captivity. When a pro-Syrian faction split with the PLO, they took the three Israeli soldiers with them and their whereabouts are unknown.

The Syrian government currently claims they have no knowledge concerning the fate of the soldiers. However, western journalists and Syrian radio reported that the three soldiers were paraded through Damascus several hours after they were captured. Three weeks later, on July 4, 1982, the Syrian secret police delivered four bodies for burial to the Jewish cemetery in Damascus claiming they were the bodies of the Israeli soldiers. The Syrians also provided name tags, which Israeli intelligence sources reported were supplied by the PLO's Fatah faction. Fifteen months later, the Red Cross exhumed the four graves, finding only one Israeli body.

The most recent evidence which indicates that Zachary Baumel may still be alive came from PLO leader Yasser Arafat. In 1993, Arafat delivered half of Zachary Baumel's dog tags to Israeli officials. Chairman Arafat promised that more information was forthcoming, but it was never received. As recently as 1997, information has been obtained that

Baumel, along with two other men, may still be in custody in Lebanon.

With the resumption of the Middle East peace process, the State Department should urge the Syrian and Lebanese governments, along with Chairman Arafat, to secure information that will resolve the fate of the missing soldiers. The State Department should communicate to these governments that their willingness to assist efforts in the search for the missing soldiers will be considered among other factors in the provision of future economic and foreign assistance.

The plight of the missing soldiers was brought to my attention by Miriam and Yona Baumel, who have asked me to help find more information concerning their son and the other missing soldiers and to secure their return. They believe, as I do, that the soldiers may still be alive. One cannot imagine the pain of uncertainty and fear they have felt for the past 17 years waiting to hear about the fate of their son.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1175. The three missing Israeli soldiers are the longest held hostages in the Middle East, and it is time that they are released to return to their families.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1175, a bill authorizing an investigation into the disappearance of Zachary Baumel.

Zachary Baumel, an American citizen who was serving in the Israel Defense Forces, was captured alive along with two of his colleagues in June 1982 following a tank battle against Syrian and terrorist forces during the course of Operation Peace for Galilee. It is believed that they were captured by forces affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization and subsequently transferred to a splinter group of the PLO. Since June of 1982, the world has heard nothing from Zachary Baumel.

Mr. Speaker, this is a cruel fate indeed. Zachary Baumel's parents have had to live with their son's missing in action status, knowing full well that he might be alive and well in some prison cell in Lebanon or Syria. They cannot mourn because they can't be sure that he is dead, only that he is missing.

It is for this reason, to end the suffering of the Baumel family and to restore their son to their care, that this bill has been introduced. The bill would require that the State Department investigate the circumstances surrounding the capture of Zachary Baumel and his colleagues and initiate discussions at the highest levels with the governments of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority with the intention of securing the return of these prisoners of war if possible. This is a worthy cause and I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1175, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMUNITY RENEWAL THROUGH COMMUNITY- AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 207) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to community renewal through community- and faith-based organizations.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 207

Whereas, while the steady economic growth and low inflation in the United States has yielded unprecedented prosperity, many American citizens have not benefited from this prosperity and continue to be socioeconomically disadvantaged;

Whereas millions of our fellow citizens who live in the inner cities and rural communities continue to be plagued by social breakdown, economic disadvantage, and educational failure that fosters hopelessness and despair;

Whereas our most intractable pathologies—crime, drug addiction, teen pregnancy, homelessness, and youth violence—are each being addressed by small, and sometimes unrecognized, community- or faith-based organizations, whose expertise should not be ignored;

Whereas these nonprofit organizations have local experts who are moving individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency and restoring the lives of men, women, and families across the country;

Whereas many community- and faith-based organizations are offering the American public a new vision of compassion, designed to encourage volunteerism, strengthen the community, and care for the poor and vulnerable;

Whereas private sector investment in capital development—social and economic—in the most poverty stricken pockets across the country is key to long-term renewal of urban centers and distressed rural communities;

Whereas economic growth attracts new businesses, provides stability to neighborhoods, as well as provides jobs that yield income to support families and nurture self-respect;

Whereas over 100 bipartisan Members of Congress have cosponsored H.R. 815, the American Community Renewal Act, which targets the 100 poorest communities in the Nation for pro-growth tax benefits, regulatory relief, brownfields cleanup, and homeownership opportunities that combine to create jobs, hope, and a sense of community;

Whereas the President and the Vice President, along with congressional organizations such as the Renewal Alliance, have recognized the importance of community renewal and have recently promoted strategies designed to rebuild communities to empower faith-based organizations on the front lines of renewal in our country; and

Whereas a concerted effort to empower community institutions, encourage community renewal, and implement educational reform will help those who reside in inner cities and distressed rural communities to gain their share of America's prosperity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends gratitude to the private nonprofit organizations and volunteers whose commitment to meet human needs in areas of poverty is key to long-term renewal of urban centers and distressed rural communities;

(2) seeks to empower the strengths of America's communities, local leaders, and mediating institutions such as its families, schools, spiritual leaders, businesses and nonprofit organizations;

(3) should work to empower community- and faith-based organizations to promote effective solutions to the social, financial, and emotional needs of urban centers and rural communities, and the long-term solutions to the problems faced by our culture; and

(4) should work with the Senate and the President to support a compassionate grassroots approach to addressing the family, economic, and cultural breakdown that plagues many of our Nation's urban and rural communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 207 which recognizes a significant role that neighborhood community- and faith-based organizations are playing in the renewal and empowerment of struggling families and communities around this country. Today we want to commend and extend our gratitude to the private nonprofit organizations and volunteers whose commitment to meeting human needs compassionately and effectively in areas of poverty is key to the long-term renewal of our urban centers and distressed world communities.

It is the strength of mediating institutions such as families, churches, schools, nonprofit organizations, local leaders and businesses which empower individuals and communities. These are the unsung heroes in my district and throughout the country that are making the difference in the lives of people.

As a renewal alliance, our desire is to eliminate barriers which may hinder the effective community building work of these groups. We can assist legislatively by helping lessen the tax on regulatory burdens on our most distressed communities as H.R. 815, the American Community Renewal Act, does in a bipartisan manner with a hundred cosponsors, including 19 Democrats.

We can also seek to empower charities and faith-based organizations around this country by providing a level playing field so that they can also compete for government funds when they are providing services which the government is contracting out. Just last week, the House of Representatives extended this principle of religious nondiscrimination in charitable choice to juvenile justice programs by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 346 to 83.

This principle has been in law since 1996 when we passed it in welfare re-

form and more recently in 1998, when we included it in the Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization. It may not be as glamorous or as newsworthy as our debates on guns and/or the Ten Commandments, but the fact is we have been moving ahead systematically over a number of years of expanding charitable choice.

Another way that we can help these community builders is by encouraging charitable donations to these effective charities. I have my own legislation which encourages giving to charities in general, the Giving Incentive and Volunteer Encouragement Act which increases the charitable deduction 120 percent of individuals' contribution, allows non-itemizers to once again receive a deduction for charitable contributions, eliminates the cap on how much people can give and deduct, and extends the charitable contribution deadline to April 15.

This House can also encourage State charity tax credits, as we did in the Community Services Block Grant where we gave flexibility—the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) in H.R. 1607, the Charity Empowerment Act, which I cosponsored, extends this discretion past what we did to other Federal block grants and expands the principle of charitable choice in a manner and addition consistent with what Vice President Gore.

Not only has the leading Republican contender, Governor Bush, but now Vice President Gore, has started promoting charitable choice. States as varied as Texas, Maryland, Indiana are partnering with faith-based organizations in the effort to assist those groups most able to walk alongside those individuals in greatest need. Local communities and taxpayers are impressed with the results. Government can be a partner rather than a hindrance in a barrier to renewed communities.

I urge the support for this resolution to commend and thank all those unsung heroes throughout this country who are working to restore hope to all segments of American society.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) will control 20 minutes pursuant to the rule.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support the notion that faith-based organizations should be able to receive Federal funds where constitutionally appropriate to provide services for individuals in need. We all recognize the contributions that these organizations have made. Some of them, in fact, do a better job than other nonprofits that are not religiously affiliated.

But while I support the underlying premise of H. Res. 207, and recognizing the contributions that faith-based organizations have made, I take issue

with the reference in the resolution, in H.R. 815, the American Community Renewal Act. This legislation presents considerable policy and constitutional issues relating to faith-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, under current law, religiously affiliated organizations such as Catholic Charities or Lutheran Services in America and the United Jewish Communities are generally permitted to provide social services with government funds so long as the program receiving the funds is not pervasively sectarian or religiously discriminatory.

The American Community Renewal Act is a dramatic and extreme departure from current law as it seeks to fund pervasively sectarian organizations to administer substance abuse benefits on behalf of the government. Pervasively sectarian programs are those defined by the United States Supreme Court in which, and I quote, religion is so pervasive that a substantial portion of their function is subsumed in their religious mission.

In various cases, the Supreme Court has listed several criteria to be used to help to determine if the program is pervasively sectarian such as is it located near a house of worship and abundance of religious symbols on the premises, religious discrimination in the institution's hiring practices, the presence of religious activities, or the purposeful articulation of religious mission.

Specifically this resolution and this legislation that is commented by the resolution allows providers to require program participants to, 1, actively participate in religious practice worship and instruction; and 2, to follow the rules of behavior devised by the organizations that are religious in content and origin.

Thus, as proposed, the American Community Renewal Act would authorize the use of taxpayer funds to directly coerce government beneficiaries to practice certain religious beliefs, and it does so without adequately notifying participants that they have a right to seek nonreligious services. In addition, it would allow faith-based organizations to engage in employment discrimination based on religion, with public funds.

Now title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act provides for a specific exemption for religious organizations from the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of religion and private employment. For example, a church in hiring the minister can require the minister to have to belong to that particular religion, but this exemption has never been applied to employees of Federal programs sponsored by a religiously affiliated organizations.

As proposed, H.R. 815, in 815 those organizations who are receiving Federal funds may deny, for example, drug counselors' employment based on their religion. For example, this bill allows an exemption as follows: Quote, a religious organization that is a program

participant may require that an employee rendering services adhere to, A, the religious beliefs and practices of that organization, and B, the rules of the organization regarding the use of alcohol. This means that a federally funded drug program sponsored by a religiously affiliated organization could for the first time since we had meaningful civil rights laws say that drug counselors of other religions need not apply.

Beyond the considerable constitutional implications of this legislation there are also several serious policy concerns that should be mentioned. Of particular note is the concern that the legislation would override State licensing and certification of drug and alcohol treatment counselors.

Additionally, there is an inclusion of an absolutely absurd congressional finding that, quote, formal educational qualifications for counselors and other program personnel in drug treatment programs may undermine the effectiveness or even may hinder or prevent the provision of needed drug treatment services. To suggest that formal educational qualifications for counselors and other personnel may be counterproductive is not anything that we have evidence to support.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason why we have laws separating church and State activities. We have a long line of Supreme Court cases showing how this could be done and how it is appropriate to be done.

□ 1515

This legislation, which references H.R. 815, is an extreme and dramatic departure from that long line of cases, and for that reason the resolution ought to be opposed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to point out for the record that we have already adopted, as I said earlier, this three times; and I understand there are some differences on the Democratic side, but the Vice President of the United States, on his home page, on Gore 2000, actually says that "where faith can play a unique and effective role such as drug treatment." He also said in his speech, "I believe the lesson for our Nation is clear in those instances where the unique power of faith can help us meet the crushing social challenges that are otherwise impossible to meet, such as drug addiction."

So he is specifically referring to some of these programs where they have the drug addiction.

In his longer speech, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), where he was referring to pervasively sectarian, that is directly contrary to the Vice President's speech where he said, "I have seen the transformative power of faith-based approaches." He talks about: While I believe strongly in separation of church and state, but freedom

of religion need not mean freedom from religion. There is a better way. He specifically talks about an organization where his wife practices. He says, my wife, Tipper, practices her faith and sees its power through her work with homeless people who come to Christ House.

Now, if it is pervasively sectarian, in fact, it would undermine the very principle that both parties are backing

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of House Resolution 27.

Members of this House have the distinct opportunity to join our efforts today and stand behind the idea of community renewal. A lot has been written and spoken lately about the idea of "compassionate conservatism." Even Presidential candidates of both parties have enjoyed extolling the success of faith-based and private institutions.

Well, all of us, from both sides of the aisle, have the opportunity to support legislation that compassionately looks out for the poor among us. Yet it does this by using the resources of government to spur the local economy and market incentives for the improvement on low-income neighborhoods and communities.

For the last year, the Renewal Alliance, a group of Senators and Members committed to assisting poor neighborhoods through civic and legislative solutions and nongovernmental solutions, has recognized private sector solutions to poverty and despair all across the country. We have found neighborhood organizations and communities that are efficiently solving the problems of poverty in ways that a government-run program can only dream of. We must realize that although there is a role for government, we cannot allow it to shackle the very institutions which are providing hope to these communities.

That is why the Renewal Alliance has developed the "Real Life" agenda, the legislation the gentleman referred to, to strengthen social entrepreneurs who are changing lives and stimulating economic development in our urban centers. They primarily do it in three ways: through community renewal, a charity tax credit; through economic incentives, for investment in poor communities; and through educational opportunities for low-income children.

The Great Society program, which was initiated by the liberals, had its \$30 billion experiment with government programs. Let us now turn our efforts towards empowering grass-roots leaders who are working to eliminate poverty. These leaders are united in a commitment to offering help and healing to those in need. They have been dedicated to meeting the physical and spiritual and emotional needs of individuals.

I have made many stops to small, nonprofit, faith-based charities in my

district, and throughout all of my visits, over and over, it is confirmed to me that those whose work springs from a heart dedicated to following a standard larger than themselves do not stop work at 5 o'clock. They do not leave their work at work. They live it, and they breathe it. They are committed to helping our society's weakest members and doing the true, time-intensive work of transforming lives and communities.

Just as the character of a person is seen in the most precious objects of its love, it has also been said that the character of a nation is shown by how it treats its weakest members. Grass-roots, neighborhood, and community-based healers are found throughout this Nation, and such organizations within the communities have the ability to demonstrate success within a new paradigm, which is often, although not always, a faith component.

We must look past the think tanks, past the lofty theories; we must look past the government programs and wasted dollars. We must embrace the common-sense community answers which already exist and are already changing lives in our midst. They do not have hefty budgets. They are places that are not quasi-government, they are charitable in nature, and the Renewal Alliance has made it its business to seek out these kinds of solutions and promote them.

It is within these groups time and again that we have seen remarkable transformations taking place, not only in the lives of individuals, but in their families and in surrounding communities. For instance, Teen Challenge of Philadelphia, a faith-based drug and alcohol recovery program, has success rates of 70 to 80 percent compared to single-digit success rates of government programs. Yet it is continually hassled and charged to have the so-called correct staffing requirements which existed in a State-run drug treatment program which had single-digit success rates.

Another type of program we must recognize is one like Dorothy Harrell's Abbotsford Tenant Management Association in Philadelphia. Dorothy, unfortunately, cannot hire the residents of her housing facility to perform maintenance tasks around the community because of a government labor law requiring highly-paid workers from outside to come in and do simple tasks. That is absurd.

It is the goal of Renewal Alliance not only to bring these wrongs to light, but to promote these "beacons of hope" to a larger community.

We know that with government programs, 70 percent of every dollar designated to serve the poor goes not to the poor, but to those who serve the poor, the poverty industry. Therefore, there is a proprietary interest in maintaining people in poverty. This is exactly what we need to work against, and it is why we brought this important issue to the forefront of debate today.

We as an institution, as Members, must embrace the work of these groups. So today, I urge and challenge my colleagues to support the truly compassionate and, yes, conservative approach to renewing our low-income programs in this community. Support the American Community Renewal Act, a common-sense, next step to restore our cities to vibrancy. I urge support of this resolution so that we can take the next step towards commitment to communities in this Nation.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, could I inquire as to how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) has 14½ minutes remaining; the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, the issue before the House today is not whether faith-based organizations can be an effective tool in solving America's social problems. The real question is whether, in effect, an unconstitutional direct funding of churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of religion would empower faith-based organizations or shackle them with Federal regulations.

I am going to put aside my prepared remarks and ask the gentleman from Pennsylvania if he would allow us to exchange a discussion and questions. Since this did not go through a committee hearing process, I think it would be very helpful if the gentleman would answer some questions about the intent of this legislation, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) would allow me to have that exchange.

Now, if I could ask the gentleman, under this bill, and H.R. 815 which it supports, it says, the program can basically require a participant in a drug and alcohol abuse program to, quote, "actively participate in religious practice, worship and instruction, and follow rules of behavior devised by the organizations that are religious in content and/or origin."

Now, if a Wiccan organization, Wiccan organization were to win a drug and alcohol abuse grant funding program from the Federal Government, can I ask, could a Christian participant in that Wiccan program be forced to participate in a religious ceremony honoring the sun or the moon?

I would like to ask the author of the legislation, since only can we know by hearing from the author of the legislation, what the intent of this important legislation is that goes to the heart of the very idea and principle of the first amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EDWARDS. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana for an answer to that question.

Would a Christian under the gentleman's legislation and H.R. 815 who is participating in a program run by the Wiccans be forced to participate in a Wiccan religious service?

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. Clearly, there will be matters of interpretation. In most of these laws, we have specifically that one cannot use specific religious indoctrination, but one does not have to change the character of the program.

For example, religious people can teach it; a priest could be in a collar, you could have religious symbols in the room.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EDWARDS. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman, if on page 75, line 23, the American Community Renewal Act says, "A religious organization that is a program participant may require a program beneficiary who is elected to receive program services from the organization; one, can require them to actively participate in religious practice, worship and instruction; and two, to follow the rules of behavior devised by the organization that are religious in content or origin."

Is that in the bill?

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, that is in the bill. And reclaiming my time, the point I would make is, that direct language in the bill directly conflicts with the gentleman's answer to my question.

Let me ask the gentleman another question about the intent of this legislation and H.R. 815, which he is supporting.

Under this legislation, would a Christian organization that has won a grant program for alcohol and drug abuse programs be able to take Federal funds to hire and fire employees, and could it then refuse to hire an employee, a perfectly qualified employee, because that person is Jewish?

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EDWARDS. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the fundamental underlying answer to your question is nobody is required to go to this program, there is an opt-out provision; and the answer is, yes, the integrity of the hiring organization, a Jewish organization can fire a Protestant if they chose.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman admitting that under this legislation, we are going to endorse for the first time perhaps in this country's history federally-funded job discrimination based on race, sex, religion, marital status.

I think that would be as good of an argument as I could make against this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EDWARDS. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, did I understand the gentleman to say that if one church ran a drug counseling program, that they could have a sign on their door that said Jewish drug counselors need not apply for a job under a federally-funded program?

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, the answer is absolutely. Absolutely.

Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I think this point, these answers to these fundamental questions are an example of why it is a poor reflection upon this House that an issue as important as religious freedom is defended by the first 16 words of the Bill of Rights. The last two times this was debated it was debated at 12 a.m. and 1 a.m. respectively, and today it is debated during a suspension calendar. Maybe that is appropriate. We are suspending the religious freedoms guaranteed by the first amendment of the Bill of Rights under the suspension calendar today. This deserves more consideration, and this measure should be defeated.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think it is fair to point out that in the Civil Rights Act there are also rights for those who want to practice their belief, and we should not say Christian counselors or Jewish counselors need not apply if they are going to practice their faith. There is no mandatory requirement to go into this program. The Vice President has supported this. This House has supported a similar provision in a welfare reform and social services block grant and now in juvenile justice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, thank the gentleman from Indiana for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important resolution. I do so because despite the rosy vision of our economy, which some believe has brought prosperity to all Americans, the fact remains that millions of Americans are unemployed, are underemployed. Decent jobs and other economic opportunities are desperately needed in low-income, cash-strapped communities.

If the future looks bright for some, there are millions of others who obviously are not looking through that same lens. The fact of the matter is that in my congressional district, in the Seventh District of Illinois, there are 175,000 people who live at or below the poverty level.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I and 100 other Members of this body have joined in sponsoring the American Community Renewal Act, H.R. 815.

Mr. Speaker, community economic development requires one to examine the reality of one's community, including the economic and social activities of its residents, small businesses and other organizations. Traditionally, government agencies often use tax incentives and regulations to attract

large businesses. That is because many Members think big business brings prosperity. This thinking has resulted in destructive competition among States and local areas to attract and retain these businesses.

□ 1530

The fact of the matter is only so many large businesses and corporations exist to go around. Not every community can have one. However, every community has a family-owned and operated small business. Every community has a church that actively participates in the lives of its people. ACRA directs government support to these valued resources, holding onto the idea that community residents should be the first people to benefit.

This is no absolute panacea, but I can tell the Members, in spite of all the conversations that we hear, there are communities all across America that are dying on the vine because they cannot get the resources into those communities to the people who need them.

While I strongly believe in the First Amendment, while I strongly believe in the separation of church and State, I am not convinced that by allowing programs to be operated by individuals who have Christian principles, who believe in certain values and are willing to espouse those, as it has already been indicated, Mr. Speaker, there is an opt-out provision, and this program does not require or this legislation does not require anyone to come into any program. That would be established.

However, it does allow programs that have proven to be effective where in addition to the professional modalities that are used people also inject faith into them.

So with all due respect to my colleagues who see this differently, it is my hope, my desire, and my wish that we would support this resolution, that we would support the American Community Renewal Act, and give an additional tools to those communities that nobody else has found a way to save.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to House Joint Resolution 207. While this resolution is nonbinding and sounds innocent enough, the truth is that this resolution represents an assault on the separation of church and State.

The separation of church and State is a concept that underlies our constitutional democracy and dates back to the founding of our great Nation. On the walls of the Jefferson Memorial are inscribed these words: No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship or ministry or shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinion or belief." Yet, House Joint Resolution 207 endorses a law which would compel a citizen through his tax dollars to do just that.

The American Community Renewal Act, which this resolution endorses, would change current law and allow the beneficiaries of church-based social services to be proselytized. In some cases this could mean that getting help requires getting saved. Let me repeat that again. In some cases, this could mean that getting help requires getting saved, getting saved.

That is not right. It is not fair. It is not just. It is not the role of or government to subsidize the spread of God's word. That is the role of the church, the synagogue, the mosque, the temple.

The American Community Renewal Act would also appear to sanction religious discrimination against employees. This bill would override State civil rights laws and allow religious-based employers providing social services to discriminate on the basis of a person's religious tenets or beliefs.

There are many religious institutions providing good and worthwhile social services to people in need throughout our Nation. These groups and institutions are to be applauded. But as a government and as a Nation, we should not violate the separation of church and State. It has guided our country for more than 220 years. Our forefathers in their wisdom devised a system of government that protects the religious liberty of all Americans. This Congress should do nothing to undermine this great system of our great Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat House Resolution 207.

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, nothing in this legislation requires anybody to be saved or to participate in any program. In other words, there is an opt-out provision. I believe it will unleash the incredible influence and power of the African-American church in America. The Hispanic churches are actually very effective at the grass roots level.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following material for the Record:

THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY RENEWAL ACT
ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS RAISED TO FAITH
BASED DRUG TREATMENT PROVISIONS ON THE
AMERICAN COMMUNITY RENEWAL ACT (H.R. 815)

Objection 1: It's Unconstitutional—it violates the separation of church and state:

This is untrue. Currently, two voucher programs have been successfully and legally implemented. First, the Child Care Block grant was voucherized in 1993 so that parents could use federal daycare dollars at the provider they choose—religious or secular. Second, the new welfare law allows states to contract out their social services to both religious or non-religious providers.

ACRA's drug treatment provision is the same. It voucherizes the Substance Abuse Block grant and other treatment block grants and allows the addict to decide where to use the voucher.

The Court has ruled that as long as the voucher recipient has a choice among providers both religious and non-religious and the participant makes the decision, then the choice is Constitutional.

Consider it this way: If you oppose this provision of ACRA, you oppose Pell Grants. With a Pell Grant, students use this federal grant money to attend Notre Dame, Providence College, or Yeshiva University without raising constitutional concerns. The Substance Abuse Block grants are no different.

Objection 2: There is no certification of counselors in the bill.

Why would you exclude a program that is the most successful? Let's keep our priorities straight. What is more important—curbing addicts or enforcing certification requirements?

ACRA places its priorities on helping addicts—not on who has what credentials. ACRA will not allow for a program to be discriminated against if it has a high success rate—even if there is no formal certification of its counselors.

Bob Woodson of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise works with some of the most successful faith-based drug treatment programs around the country has testified before the House Small Business Committee saying, "The silver bullet of the success of faith based substance abuse programs is staff composed of men and women who have themselves overcome addictions and can establish a basis of trust and openness necessary for addicts to be freed from their habits."

Objection 3: Advancing these faith-based programs is an untested idea even according to a GOP commissioned GAO report:

Faith-based programs work. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, faith-based programs have a 60-80% cure rate. In sharp contrast, a RAND Corporation issued a report showing conventional treatment programs have only a 6-13% success rate.

In addition to being more successful, faith-based programs are almost always cheaper. Teen Challenge in PA spends only \$25 to \$35 a day compared with \$600 a day for conventional, therapeutic hospital-based care.

Objection 4: ACRA forces religion on people:

ACRA forces religion on no one. It only makes highly successful programs accessible to more people.

The language is very clear that the individual makes the choice of where to get the treatment—not the state. Even if they are not happy with their choice, addicts can leave the program and use their voucher at another program at anytime.

Objection 5: H.R. 815 allows for faith-based programs to discriminate against hiring people with different religious backgrounds:

Doesn't it make sense that a church can have the ability to pick their staff based on their religious beliefs? If that is a part of their recipe for success, then they should be able to hire those that believe.

Essentially, this is no different than publicly run programs discriminating against counselors because they don't have a masters degree.

[From the Brookings Review, Mar. 22, 1999]

"NO AID TO RELIGION?"

(By Ronald J. Sider and Heidi Rolland Unruh)

As government struggles to solve a confounding array of poverty-related social problems—deficient education, un- and underemployment, substance abuse, broken families, substandard housing, violent crime, inadequate health care, crumbling urban infrastructures—it has turned increasingly to the private sector, including a wide range of faith-based agencies. As described in Stephen Monsma's *When Sacred and Secular Mix*, public funding for nonprofit organizations with a religious affiliation is surprisingly high. Of the faith-based child service agencies Monsma surveyed, 63 percent reported that more than 20 percent of their budget came from public funds.

Government's unusual openness to cooperation with the private religious sector arises in part from public disenchantment with its programs, but also from an increasingly widespread view that the nation's acute social problems have moral and spiritual roots. Acknowledging that social problems arise both from unjust socioeconomic structures and from misguided personal choices, scholars, journalists, politicians, and community activists are calling attention to the vital and unique role that religious institutions play in social restoration.

Though analysis of the outcomes of faith-based social services is as yet incomplete, the available evidence suggests that some of those services may be more effective and cost-efficient than similar secular and government programs. One oft-cited example is Teen Challenge, the world's largest residential drug rehabilitation program, with a reported rehabilitation rate of over 70 percent—a vastly higher success rate than most other programs, at a substantially lower cost. Multiple studies identify religion as a key variable in escaping the inner city, recovering from alcohol and drug addiction, keeping marriages together, and staying out of prison.

THE NEW COOPERATION AND THE COURTS

Despite this potential, public-private cooperative efforts involving religious agencies have been constrained by the current climate of First Amendment interpretation. The ruling interpretive principle on public funding of religious nonprofits—following the metaphor of the wall of separation between church and state, as set forth in *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947)—is "no aid to religion." While most court cases have involved funding for religious elementary and secondary schools, clear implications have been drawn for other types of "pervasively sectarian" organizations. A religiously affiliated institution may receive public funds—but only if it is not too religious.

Application of the no-aid policy by the courts, however, has been confusing. The Supreme Court has provided no single, decisive definition of "pervasively sectarian" to determine which institutions qualify for public funding, and judicial tests have been applied inconsistently. Rulings attempting to separate the sacred and secular aspects of religiously based programs often appear arbitrary from a faith perspective, and at worst border on impermissible entanglement. As a result of this legal confusion, some agencies receiving public funds pray openly with their clients, while other agencies have been banned even from displaying religious symbols. Faith-based child welfare agencies have greater freedom in incorporating religious components than religious schools working with the same population. Only a few publicly funded religious agencies have been challenged in the courts, but such leniency may not continue. While the no-aid principle holds official sway, faith-based agencies must live with the tension that what the government gives with one hand, it can take away (with legal damages to boot) with the other. The lack of legal recourse leaves agencies vulnerable to pressures from public officials and community leaders to secularize their programs.

The Supreme Court's restrictive rulings on aid to religious agencies stand in tension with the government's movement toward greater reliance on private sector social initiatives. If the no-aid principle were applied consistently against all religiously affiliated agencies now receiving public funding, government administration of social services would face significant setbacks. This ambiguous state of affairs for public-private cooperation has created a climate of mistrust

and misunderstanding, in which faith-based agencies are reluctant to expose themselves to risk of lawsuits, civic authorities are confused about what is permissible, and multiple pressures push religious organizations into hiding or compromising their identity, while at the same time, many public officials and legislators are willing to look the other way when faith-based social service agencies include substantial religious programming.

Fortunately, an alternative principle of First Amendment interpretation, which Monsma identifies as the "equal treatment" strain, has recently been emerging in the Supreme Court. This line of reasoning—as in *Widmar v. Vincent* (1981) and *Rosenberger v. Rector* (1995)—holds that public access to facilities or benefits cannot exclude religious groups. Although the principle has not yet been applied to funding for social service agencies, it could be a precedent for defending cooperation between government and faith-based agencies where the offer of funding is available to any qualifying agency.

The section of the 1996 welfare reform law known as Charitable Choice paves the way for this cooperation by prohibiting government from discriminating against nonprofit applicants for certain types of social service funding (whether by grant, contract, or voucher) on the basis of their religious nature. Charitable Choice also shields faith-based agencies receiving federal funding from governmental pressures to alter their religious character—among other things, assuring their freedom to hire staff who share their religious perspective. Charitable Choice prohibits religious nonprofits from using government funds for "inherently religious" activities—defined as "sectarian workshop, instruction, or proselytization"—but allows them to raise money from non-government sources to cover the costs of any such activities they choose to integrate into their program. Clearly, Charitable Choice departs from the dominant "pervasively sectarian" standard for determining eligibility for government funding, which has restricted the funding of thoroughly religious organizations. It makes religiosity irrelevant to the selection of agencies for public-private cooperative ventures and emphasizes instead the public goods to be achieved by cooperation. At the same time, Charitable Choice protects clients' First Amendment rights by ensuring that services are not conditional on religious preference, that client participation in religious activities is voluntary, and that an alternative nonreligious service provider is available.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND THE CASE FOR CHARITABLE CHOICE

Does Charitable Choice violate the First Amendment's non-establishment and free exercise clauses?

We think no. As long as participants in faith-based programs freely choose those programs over a "secular" provider and may opt out of particular religious activities within the program, no one is coerced to participate in religious activity, and freedom of religion is preserved. As long as government is equally open to funding programs rooted in any religious perspective whether Islam, Christianity, philosophic naturalism, or no explicit faith perspective—government is not establishing or providing preferential benefits to any specific religion or to religion in general. As long as religious institutions maintain autonomy over such crucial areas as program content and staffing, the integrity of their separate identity is maintained. As long as government funds are exclusively designated for activities that are not inherently religious, no taxpayer need fear that

taxes are paying for religious activity. While Charitable Choice may increase interactions between government and religious institutions, these interactions do not in themselves violate religious liberty. Charitable Choice is designed precisely to discourage such interactions from leading to impermissible entanglement or establishment of religion.

Not only does Charitable Choice not violate proper church-state relations, it strengthens First Amendment protections. In the current context of extensive government funding for a wide array of social services, limiting government funds to allegedly "secular" programs actually offers preferential treatment to one specific religious worldview.

In setting forth this argument, we distinguish four types of social service providers. First are secular providers who make no explicit reference to God or any ultimate values. People of faith may work in such an agency—say, a job training program that teaches job skills and work habits—but staff use only current techniques from the social and medical sciences without reference to religious faith. Expressing explicit faith commitments of any sort is considered inappropriate.

Second are religiously affiliated providers (of any religion) who incorporate little inherently religious programming and rely primarily on the same medical and social science methods as a secular agency. Such a program may be provided by a faith community and a staff with strong theological reasons for their involvement, and religious symbols and a chaplain may be present. A religiously affiliated job training program might be housed in a church, and clients might be informed about the church's religious programs and about the availability of a chaplain's services. But the content of the training curriculum would be very similar to that of a secular program.

Third are exclusively faith-based providers whose programs rely on inherently religious activities, making little or no use of techniques from the medical and social sciences. An example would be a prayer support group and Bible study or seminar that teaches biblical principles of work for job-seekers.

Fourth are holistic faith-based providers who combine techniques from the medical and social sciences with inherently religious components such as prayer, worship, and the study of sacred texts. A holistic job training program might incorporate explicitly biblical principles into a curriculum that teaches job skills and work habits, and invite clients to pray with program staff.

Everyone agrees that public funding of only the last two types of providers would constitute government establishment of religion. But if government (because of the "no aid to religion" principle) funds only secular programs, is this a properly neutral policy?

Not really, for two reasons. First, given the widespread public funding for private social services, if government funds only secular programs, it puts all faith-based programs at a disadvantage. Government would tax everyone—both religious and secular—and then fund only allegedly secular programs. Government-run or government-funded programs would be competing in the same fields with faith-based programs lacking access to such support.

Second, secular programs are not religiously neutral. Implicitly, purely "secular" programs convey the message that nonreligious technical knowledge and skills are sufficient to address social problems such as low job skills and single parenthood. Implicitly, they teach the irrelevance of a spiritual dimension to human life. Although secular

programs may not explicitly uphold the tenets of philosophical naturalism and the belief that nothing exists except the natural order, implicitly they support such a worldview. Rather than being religiously neutral, "secular" programs implicitly convey a set of naturalistic beliefs about the nature of persons and ultimate reality that serve the same function as religion. Vast public funding of only secular programs means massive government bias in favor of one particular quasi-religious perspective—namely, philosophical naturalism.

Religiously affiliated agencies (type two), which have received large amounts of funding in spite of the "no aid to religion" principle, pose another problem. These agencies often claim a clear religious identity—in the agency's history or name, in the religious identity and motivations of sponsors and some staff, in the provision of a chaplain, or in visible religious symbols. By choice or in response to external pressures, however, little in their program content and methods distinguishes many of these agencies from their fully secular counterparts. Prayer, spiritual counseling, Bible studies, and invitations to join a faith community are not featured; in fact, most such agencies would consider inherently religious activities inappropriate to social service programs.

Millions of public dollars have gone to support the social service programs of religiously affiliated agencies. There are three possible ways to understand this apparent potential conflict with the "no aid to religion" principle. Perhaps these agencies are finally only nominally religious, and in fact are essentially secular institutions, in which case their religious sponsors should be raising questions. Or perhaps they are more pervasively religious than they have appeared to government funders, in which case the government should have withheld funding.

The third explanation may be that these agencies are operating with a specific, widely accepted worldview that holds that people may need God for their spiritual well-being, but that their social problems can be addressed exclusively through medical and social science methods. Spiritual nurture, in this worldview, is important in its place, but has no direct bearing on achieving public goods like drug rehabilitation or overcoming welfare dependency. Such a worldview acknowledges the spiritual dimension of persons and the existence of a transcendent realm outside of nature. But it also teaches (whether explicitly or implicitly) a particular understanding of God and persons, by addressing people's social needs independently of their spiritual nature. By allowing aid to flow only to the religiously affiliated agencies holding this understanding, government in effect has given preferential treatment to a particular religious worldview.

Holistic faith-based agencies (type four), on the other hand, operate on the belief that no area of a person's life—whether psychological, physical, social, or economic—can be adequately considered in isolation from the spiritual. Agencies operating out of this worldview consider the explicitly spiritual components of their programs—used in conjunction with conventional, secular social service methods—as fundamental to their ability to achieve the secular social goals desired by government. Government has in the past considered such agencies ineligible for public funding, though they may provide the same services as their religiously affiliated counterparts.

Some claim that allowing public funds to be channeled through a holistic religious program would threaten the First Amendment, while funding religiously affiliated agencies does not. But the pervasively sectarian standard has also constituted a gen-

uine, though more subtle, establishment of religion, because it supports one type of religious worldview while penalizing holistic beliefs. It should not be the place of government to judge between religious worldviews—but this is what the no-aid principle has required the courts to do. Selective religious perspectives on the administration of social services are deemed permissible for government to aid. Those who believe that explicitly religious content does not play a central role in addressing social problems are free to act on this belief with government support; those who believe that spiritual nurture is an integral aspect of social transformation are not.

The alternative is to pursue a policy that discriminates neither against nor in favor of any religious perspective. Charitable Choice enables the government to offer equal access to benefits to any faith-based nonprofit, as long as the money is not used for inherently religious activities and the agency provides the social benefits desired by government. Charitable Choice does not ask courts to decide which agencies are too religious. It clearly indicates the types of "inherently religious" activities that are off-limits for government funding. The government must continue to make choices about which faith-based agencies will receive funds, but eligibility for funding is to be based on an agency's ability to provide specific public goods, rather than on its religious character. Charitable Choice moves the focus of church-state interactions away from the religious beliefs and practices of social service agencies, and onto the common goals of helping the poor and strengthening the fabric of public life.

A MODEL FOR CHANGE

Our treasured heritage of religious freedom demands caution as we contemplate new forms of church-state cooperation—but caution does not preclude change, if the benefits promise to outweigh the dangers. Indeed, change is required if the pervasively sectarian standard is actually biased in favor of some religious perspectives and against others.

For church and state to cooperate successfully, both must remain true to their roles and mission. Religious organizations must refrain from accepting public funds if that means compromising their beliefs and undermining their effectiveness and integrity. Fortunately, Charitable Choice allows faith-based agencies to maintain their religious identity, while expanding the possibilities for constructive cooperation between church and state in addressing the nation's most serious social problems.

Ronald Sider, author of *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* (World Books, 1997), is president of Evangelicals for Social Action, where Heidi Rolland Unruh is a policy analyst. This article is drawn from "An (Ana) baptist Theological Perspective on Church-State Cooperation," in *Welfare Reform and Faith-Based Operations*, eds. Derek Davis and Barry Hankins (J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, 1999).

THE GORE AGENDA: FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND THE POLITICS OF COMMUNITY

"I believe the lesson for our nation is clear: in those instances where the unique power of faith can help us meet the crushing social challenges that are otherwise impossible to meet—such as drug addiction and gang violence—we should explore carefully-tailored partnerships with our faith community, so we can use approaches that are working best."—Al Gore, Atlanta, GA

Al Gore knows that faith is critical to strong families. That is why he has worked to promote the role of faith-based organizations in helping to strengthen families.

Through the Coalition to Sustain Success, an organization formed at the urging of the Vice President, he has worked to harness the best efforts of faith-based, community-based, and non-profit organizations to help former welfare recipients succeed in the workplace. His experiences with the Coalition have shown him that faith-based organizations are making a difference in addressing other challenges that have defied attempted solutions. Leaders of the new revolution of faith-based organizations call it "the politics of community."

Al Gore believes government can play a greater role in sustaining the quiet revolution of faith and values—not by dictating solutions from above, but by supporting the effective new policies that are rising up from the grassroots level. That is why he is proposing concrete actions to help faith-based organizations do what they do best—offer new hope for social progress.

EXTEND CHARITABLE CHOICE

The 1966 welfare reform law contains a provision called Charitable Choice that allows states to enlist faith-based organizations to provide basic welfare services and help move people from welfare to work—as long as there is a secular alternative for anyone who wants one, and as long as no one is required to participate in religious observances as a condition for receiving services. Al Gore believes we should extend this carefully-tailored approach to other vital services where faith can play a unique and effective role—such as drug treatment, homelessness, and youth violence prevention.

SCALING UP THE ROLE OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Al Gore believes that the solutions faith-based organizations are pioneering should be at the very heart of our national strategy for building a better, more just nation. By "scaling up" the efforts of faith-based organizations and making them integral to strategic local, state, and national planning, we can invigorate civil society; empower faith-based and secular non-profits alike; create a myriad of new multi-sector partnerships; and bring a whole new leadership into the political process—that of the community.

ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

We need to make sure the efforts of faith- and value-based organizations are recognized and supported across America. Right now it is common for employees to have their charitable contributions matched by their company, up to an annual limit. Rarely are faith-based programs approved for such matches. Al Gore calls upon the corporations of America to encourage and match contributions to faith and value-based organizations.

TEXT OF GORE REMARKS ON THE ROLE OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, MAY 24, 1999

I want to talk today about a dramatic transformation in America. It's one that you and your families are already a part of.

This transformation is a quiet one—and a good one. It is a movement that is entirely about solutions. And it is sweeping from home to home and neighbor to neighbor, right now in America.

In spite of the cultural soul sickness we've confronted recently, there is a goodness in Americans that, when mobilized, is more than a match for it. Americans are still the most decent people on earth—and are actually growing in service and in selflessness. America has the highest level of religious belief and observance of any advanced nation. Americans' volunteer work has doubled in twenty years, even as more women—the traditional mainstay of volunteer groups—have

moved into the workplace. Both adults and teenagers are just as likely to go to church or synagogue today as their counterparts were twenty years ago. And in many ways, our public policies have shown the face of that strong and growing commitment to decency: ever-fewer Americans tolerate bigotry and discrimination, and our journey as a society reflects that.

This hunger for goodness manifests itself in a newly vigorous grassroots movement tied to non-profit institutions, many of them faith-based and values-based organizations. A church's soup kitchen. A synagogue's program to help battered women. A mosque's after-school computer center that keeps teenagers away from gangs and drugs.

It's commonplace to say that people are turned off to politics. This transformation shows that in fact people are not turned off to politics—to organized community action; rather, they are turned off to too many of the ways they have seen Washington work.

What many people are struggling to find is the soul of politics, to use Jim Wallis' words. They are living their politics, by deciding to solve the problems they see, and by going out into the streets of their communities and serving those left out and left behind. People are engaged in the deeply American act of not waiting for government to deal with the problems on their own doorsteps. Instead, they are casting a vote for their own wise hearts and strong hands to take care of their own.

I came here today to say this: the moment has come for Washington to catch up to the rest of America. The moment has come to use the people's government to better help them help their neighbors.

Ordinary Americans have decided to confront the fact that our severest challenges are not just material, but spiritual. Americans know that the fundamental change we need will require not only new policies, but more importantly a change of both our hearts and our minds. If children are not taught right from wrong, they behave chaotically; if individuals don't do what's right by their kids, no new government programs will stanch that decay. Whether they are religious or not, most Americans are hungry for a deeper connection between politics and moral values; many would say "spiritual values." Without values and conscience, our political life degenerates. And Americans profoundly—rightly—believe that politics and morality are deeply interrelated. They want to reconnect the American spirit to the body politic.

For too long, national leaders have been trapped in a dead end debate. Some on the right have said for too long that a specific set of religious values should be imposed, threatening the founders' precious separation of church and state. In contrast, some on the left have said for too long that religious values should play no role in addressing public needs. These are false choices: hollow secularism or right-wing religion. Both positions are rigid; they are not where the new solutions lie. I believe strongly in the separation of church and state. But freedom of religion need not mean freedom from religion. There is a better way.

My wife Tipper practices her faith and sees its power through her work with homeless people who come to Christ House, in Washington, DC. Many at Christ House are struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues—but they often suffer from a feeling of spiritual emptiness as well. So Christ House does more than provide shelter and medical care. It creates a loving, trusting atmosphere that helps address the issues that led to homelessness in the first place. Its founder tells the story of a reporter who spend a week there, interviewing the pa-

tients. At the end of her time, she said: "What amazed me is that for all of the medical treatment, I didn't hear anyone talking about putting on bandages, or taking medication." Instead, the reporter said, they talk of "a much deeper type of healing."

I have seen the transformative power of faith-based approaches through the national coalition I have led to help people move from welfare to work—the Coalition to Sustain Success.

In San Antonio I met a woman named Herlinda. She had given up on finding work, and had gone on welfare. She had so many challenges to face. English was her second language. She didn't think she had the skills to hold a job. And she had begun to conclude that maybe she didn't deserve one. Then she signed up for job training at the Christian Women's Job Corps, which is part of our Coalition.

There, she met a woman who mentored her through prayer and Bible study, and she soon began to regain her self-confidence. Faith gave her a new feeling of self-worth, of purpose—something no other program, no matter how technically sophisticated, could give her. When I met her, she told me that for the first time in years, she had applied for a position at Wal-Mart. Then she looked me in the eye, and said with pride, "I know I'll get the job."

And she did. In fact, Herlinda was recently honored as employee of the month in her workplace.

In San Francisco, I met a woman named Vicki. Because of a drug addiction, she had lost custody of her two children, lost her job, and gone on welfare. She had tried without success to beat her addiction. Then she joined a faith and values-based program that was part of our Coalition, and finally gained the inner strength to become clean. She regained custody of her children. And she has kept a full-time job. When I asked what she could do for others in the same bind, she said, "unfortunately, nothing—unless they want to change first." For Vicki, it was faith that finally enabled her to pry open the vise grip of drug addiction.

This better way is working spectacularly. From San Antonio to San Francisco, from Goodwill in Orlando to the Boys and Girls Club in Des Moines—I have seen the difference faith-based organizations make.

Tipper and I also began to learn about this better way at our annual "Family Reunion" policy conferences, where we saw how the power of love can reconnect fathers with children they had abandoned, and how that surrendering commitment to the father-child bond has a transforming impact on men more powerful than any program ever tried. I've also seen this approach used to clean up the environment by many local congregations working in their own communities, and working on national and global issues under the umbrella of the Religious Partnership for the Environment.

Leaders of the new movement of faith-based organizations pervasively sectarian call it "the politics of community." In this new politics, citizens take local action, based on their churches, synagogues, and mosques, but reaching out to all—to do what all great religions tell good people to do: visit the prisoners, help the orphans, feed and clothe the poor. The men and women who work in faith- and values-based organizations are driven by their spiritual commitment; to serve their God, they have sustained the drug-addicted, the mentally ill, the homeless; they have trained them, educated them, cared for them, healed them. Most of all, they have done what government can never do; what it takes God's help, sometimes, for all of us to manage; they have loved them—loved their neighbors, no matter how beaten down, how hopeless, how despairing. And good programs and practices

seem to follow, born out of that compassionate care.

Here in Atlanta at the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center, I see in you the powerful role of faith in nurturing a change of consciousness. All of the men here who are recovering from substance abuse start the day with a morning devotion period. Many of them work right here during the day refinishing and reupholstering furniture, doing the work of the Salvation Army. Captain Guy Nickum, who runs the Center, says: "Our belief in God is in all of the steps of recovery." That belief is giving new hope to many of the recovering people who are with us today.

That is why this transformation is different in many ways from what has come before. Some past national political leaders have asked us to rely on a fragile patchwork of well-intentioned volunteerism to feed the hungry and house the homeless. That approach, optimistic though it was, was not adequate for the problems too many Americans face. It left too many American children behind to suffer. If all the private foundations in America gave away all their endowments, it would cover about one year of our current national commitment to meeting social challenges. In contrast, faith- and values-based organizations show a strength that goes beyond "volunteerism." These groups nationwide have shown a muscular commitment to facing down poverty, drug addiction, domestic violence and homelessness. And when they have worked out a partnership with government, they have created programs and organizations that have woven a resilient web of life support under the most helpless among us.

Reverend Eugene Rivers, as I read recently in an article, has been widely celebrated for helping to take back the worst neighborhoods of Boston through faith. He remembers a hardened gangster telling him: "I'm there when Johnny goes out for a loaf of bread. I'm there, you're not. I win, you lose. It's all about being there." but Reverend Rivers resolved that he would be there, too. He was, and he faced down the gangs.

A second difference is that they give another kind of help than the help given in government programs, no matter how dedicated the employees. To the workers in these organizations, that client is not a number, but a child of God. Those on the front lines of our most intractable battles are surprised to discover how concrete a difference that makes. "You couldn't function effectively without ministers in Boston," says William J. Bratton, who was the city's police commissioner, talking to a reporter about the clergy who saved inner-city kids from gangs.

Partly because of Reverend Rivers and his fellow faith leaders, Boston went 18 months without losing a single child to gun violence.

These workers are motivated more by service than institutional allegiance, so they try to get every penny to go to alleviating suffering rather than upholding a program for the sake of professional credentialism. Unlike bureaucracies, which can sometimes be self-perpetuating, the churches want their helping programs to work so well that they become obsolete. Traditional "helping" often gives material aid to the poor or hungry—and that's all. FBO outreach gives food, shelter—but also the one-to-one caring, respect and commitment that save lives even more effectively than just a nourishing meal or a new suit of clothes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I came to this floor to talk about the goodness that I saw in House Resolution 207. I did not realize that I would run into a constitutional argument, but I have, and I do not mind addressing it.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that, barring constitutional prohibitions, House Resolution 207 is a very good resolution. I want to tell the Members why. I represent a district where people are in need. They are in need of housing. They are in need of faith. They are in need of the resolution. They are in need of reparations for long lost things, so many things.

I saw the good in this resolution. Many times a booming stock market does not boom in some of the inner city neighborhoods that I represent. The constituents which I represent, we have pockets of poverty. Faith-based organizations have come to the rescue. To the residents of these communities and these churches, it has been clear that without the help that they are receiving, many people would be homeless.

Sometimes they are the only organization, Mr. Speaker, that will provide hope to the communities. Not only have they been paragons of faith and hope for the spiritual need of their members, but they have provided economic opportunity within the limits of their financial resources. I feel that they have aggressively and should continue to aggressively venture into businesses, for-profit businesses, and to provide services.

For these reasons, faith-based organizations in my opinion deserve our close attention to be sure that we are able to deliver something to these communities.

I stand here as a woman of faith and say that there is a lot to be gained from faith-based organizations helping. They have demonstrated a sincere commitment. They are able to get the message to the people. So barring the constitutional limitations which I have heard here today, we need to support the faith-based organizations movement.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent that the time of debate be extended by 10 minutes, 5 minutes per side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

(Mr. SCOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, first, I think it is important in terms of the requirement, the coercion of religious activity, I think it is important that I repeat what is on page 75 of the bill: "A religious organization that is a program participant may require a program beneficiary to actively participate in

religious practice, worship, and instruction, and to follow the rules of behavior devised by the organization that are religious in content and origin."

Mr. Speaker, let us see what some religious groups have to say about this particular piece of legislation. I have a letter from the Working Group for Religious Freedom and Social Services which says "We, the undersigned religious education, health, civil rights, and civil liberties organizations, are writing to urge you to oppose House Resolution 207 which endorses the substance abuse treatment section of H.R. 815, the American Community Renewal Act, because it would violate the religious liberty rights of Federal taxpayers and social service beneficiaries."

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to say that the bill will allow religious providers to engage in religious discrimination against employees who are paid through and work on taxpayer-funded substance abuse treatment programs. Although religious institutions are permitted to hire co-religionists in the context of private religious activity, ACRA overrides State civil rights laws and amounts to Federally-funded employment discrimination by requiring employees paid with public funds to adhere to the religious tenets and teachings of the organization.

In addition, the act undercuts States' rights by preempting State constitutional and statutory provisions, including civil rights laws. Furthermore, ACRA erroneously states that counselor training undermines effective substance abuse treatment, and the bill requires States that establish such training requirements to give equivalent credit for religious education such as Bible study to course work in drug treatment.

This letter is endorsed by 31 organizations, including the American Baptist Churches, American Civil Liberties Union, the American Counseling Association, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and a whole host of other religious organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I include this letter for the RECORD.

The letter referred to is as follows:

THE WORKING GROUP FOR RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM IN SOCIAL SERVICES,

Washington, DC, June 21, 1999.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We, the undersigned religious, education, health, civil rights, and civil liberties organizations are writing to urge you to oppose H.J. Res. 207 which endorses the Substance Abuse Treatment section of H.R. 815, the "American Community Renewal Act" (ACRA) because it would violate the religious liberty rights of federal taxpayers and social service beneficiaries. The bill would amend the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration statute so that "pervasively sectarian" religious institutions, such as churches and other houses of worship, could receive public funds to provide services on behalf of the government.

Although many religiously-affiliated nonprofit organizations currently provide government-funded substance abuse treatment,

JUNE 21, 1999.

the "American Community Renewal Act" would change current law to permit churches and other religious organizations that include evangelism in their programs, to receive contracts and vouchers for programs in which government social service beneficiaries may be proselytized.

In addition to violating the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, ACRA is an affront to the religious liberty rights of substance abuse and mental health beneficiaries. Although a beneficiary technically has the right to object to a religious provider, ACRA does not provide notice to the beneficiary of his or her right to object. This is particularly disturbing in the context of substance abuse treatment. It is difficult enough for those addicted to substances to seek help. Furthermore, in most instances, even if a beneficiary takes the initiative to seek an alternative provider, the bill makes the religious institution responsible for finding the alternative.

The bill would also allow religious providers to engage in religious discrimination against employees who are paid through, and work on, taxpayer-funded substance abuse treatment programs. Although religious institutions are permitted to hire co-religionists in the context of private religious activity, ACRA overrides state civil rights laws and amounts to federally-funded employment discrimination by requiring employees paid with public funds to adhere to the religious tenets and teachings of the organization.

Additionally, the "American Community Renewal Act" undercuts state rights by preempting state constitutional and statutory provisions (including civil rights laws). Furthermore, ACRA erroneously states that counselor training undermines effective substance abuse treatment, and the bill requires States that establish such training requirements to give equivalent credit for religious education, such as Bible study, to course work in drug treatment. This federal legislation overtly preempts state constitutions and statutes that protect religious liberty, civil rights, and training of treatment providers.

Of course, with government dollars comes government oversight. Such entanglement between government and religion violates the Establishment Clause, and demonstrates why the current law's distinction between "pervasively sectarian" and "religiously-affiliated" institutions better protects religious freedom. ACRA would obliterate this protection and open the door to other programs that provide taxpayer funds to religious institutions, such as school tuition vouchers.

For these reasons we strongly urge you to oppose H.J. Res. 207 which endorses the substance abuse section of H.R. 815, the "American Community Renewal Act."

Sincerely,

American Baptist Churches; American Civil Liberties Union; American Counseling Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress; Americans United for Separation of Church and State; Anti-Defamation League; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Catholics for a Free Choice; Central Conference of American Rabbis; CHILD Inc.; Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quaker); General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church; General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists; Hadassah; Jewish Council for Public Affairs; Legal Action Center; Na'amat USA; National Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors; National Association of State Alcohol and

Drug Abuse Directors; National Council of Jewish Women; National Jewish Democratic Council; People for the American Way; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Washington Office; The Rabbinical Assembly; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Unitarian Universalist Association; United Church of Christ, Office for Church in Society; Women's American Ort; Workmen's Circle.

Mr. Speaker, I also have a letter from a number of drug counseling institutions which says, "The undersigned organizations oppose House Resolution 207 and the portions of the American Community Renewal Act which will hurt provision of professionally competent alcohol and drug treatment services."

"Unfortunately, the Community Renewal Act will undermine treatment effectiveness. The Act will override State licensure and certification of alcohol and drug counselors, crushing State guarantees of safety in alcoholism and drug addiction treatment."

"The Act actually states that alcohol and drug treatment counseling is not a professional field and that formal education for counselors is detrimental to the practice of effective counseling. This is simply inaccurate. Alcoholism and drug addiction is a disease. Consequently, alcohol and drug counseling has long required specialized knowledge and training compelling the use of professional practitioners. Education equals effective alcoholism and drug addiction treatment."

"Even more troubling, the Act will require States which require formal education to deliver services to 'give credit for religious education and training equivalent to credit given for secular course work in drug treatment. . . .'"

"Alcohol and drug treatment is a medical service requiring medical knowledge. Treatment professionals specialize in diagnosis and treatment of psychoactive disorders and other substance abuse/use dependency. These counselors and other professionals possess a constellation of knowledge that is unique to the alcoholism and drug abuse counseling profession, and distinguishes ADCs from other related professions and specialties. Religious education and training is not equivalent to training given to the medical specialty of alcohol and drug treatment."

Mr. Speaker, this letter is endorsed by the American Counseling Association, the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, the National Association of Student Assistance Professionals, the National Coalition of State Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Prevention Associations, the Partnership for Recovery, which includes the Betty Ford Center, the Valley Hope Medical Association, and a whole host of other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I also place this letter in the RECORD.

The letter referred to is as follows:

MEMBERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: The undersigned organizations oppose H. Res. 207 and the portions of the American Community Renewal Act which will hurt the provision of professionally competent alcohol and drug treatment services.

Unfortunately, the Community Renewal Act will undermine treatment effectiveness. The Act will override state licensure and certification of alcohol and drug counselors, crushing state guarantees of safety in alcoholism and drug addiction treatment.

The Act actually states that alcohol and drug treatment counseling is not a professional field and that formal education for counselors is detrimental to the practice of effective counseling. This is simply inaccurate. Alcoholism and drug addiction is a disease. Consequently, alcohol and drug counseling has long required specialized knowledge and training compelling the use of professional practitioners. Education equals effective alcoholism and drug addiction treatment.

Even more troubling, the Act will require States which require formal education to deliver treatment services to "give credit for religious education and training equivalent to credit given for secular course work in drug treatment . . ." Alcohol and drug treatment is a medical service requiring medical knowledge. Treatment professionals specialize in the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of psychoactive disorders and other substance abuse/use/dependency. These counselors and other professionals possess a constellation of knowledge that is unique to the alcoholism and drug abuse counseling profession, and distinguishes ADCs from other related professions and specialties. Religious education and training is not equivalent to training given for the medical specialty of alcohol and drug treatment.

The Act also mandates States to waive their formal educational requirements under certain circumstances or face lawsuits. Finally the legislation attempts to remedy a problem that does not exist. Religious organizations are already entitled to receive federal funding by complying with the rules for charitable organizations.

All of our organizations seek to include spirituality in the lives of individuals. Spirituality is an important component of treatment, and mechanisms already exist to bring this aspect of recovery to patients without changing current law.

However, by stating that establishing formal education requirements may hinder treatment and by attempting to equate religious education with knowledge about alcoholism and drug dependence, the Community Renewal Act undermines treatment efforts and removes scarce funding from effective treatment programs. Unfortunately, this legislation ensures that the millions of people suffering from addiction, their families, employers and communities will be harmed by incompetent treatment.

The Community Renewal Act will hurt the provision of professionally competent alcohol and drug treatment services. For this reason, we urge you to vote against H. Res. 207.

Sincerely,
The American Counseling Association;
The American Methadone Treatment Association; The American Society of Addiction Medicine; The Association of Halfway House Alcoholism Programs of North America; College on Problems of Drug Dependence; Legal Action Center; The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers; The National Association of Alcoholism and Drug

Abuse Counselors; The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors; The National Association of Student Assistance Professionals; The National Coalition of State Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Prevention Associations; The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare; The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence; National TASC; The Partnership for Recovery; The Betty Ford Center; The Caron Foundation; Hazelden, Inc.; The Valley Hope Medical Association; The Research Society on Alcoholism; Therapeutic Communities of America.

CHARITABLE CHOICE WILL HURT THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONALLY COMPETENT ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES

NAADAC Opposes the Appropriation of Federal Funding to Sectarian Treatment Providers Because Such Funding Will Undermine Licensure Laws and Certification Requirements in the States.

History: Since 1995, Senator John Ashcroft (R-MO) has been offering "charitable choice" amendments and legislation which would require federal agencies to allow sectarian (religious) organizations to receive federal funding to provide community services, including alcohol and drug counseling. Senator Ashcroft has, in past years, placed a hold on reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in order to force a vote in the Senate to apply charitable provisions to SAMHSA. In 1996 Representatives J.C. Watts (R-OK) and James Talent (R-MO) introduced the "American Community Renewal Act" an "enhanced" charitable choice legislation to require that SAMHSA permit a "faith-based" substance abuse treatment centers to receive federal funding. NAADAC considers this to be an enhanced charitable choice provision since it specifically exempts sectarian organizations from complying with federal employment law. In November 1997, Senators Spencer Abraham (R-MI), Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) and Dan Coats (R-IN) introduced "The Effective Substance Abuse Treatment Act," which parallels the substance abuse portion of the Community Renewal Act. On January 21, 1999, Senator Abraham re-introduced his bill, re-titled "The Faith-Based Drug Treatment Enhancement Act".

CHARITABLE CHOICE ANALYSIS

NAADAC strongly supports the requirement of individual certification and licensure for alcohol and drug counselors. Such regulations establish an organized system which ensures that the delivery of this vital health care service is provided by trained and experienced professionals who have met rigorous educational and training requirements. Licensure laws protect consumers from unethical and ineffective practices. Under charitable choice, sectarian institutions could claim exemption from state regulations, (even where legislation explicitly attempts to subject religious providers to state regulations) because the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prevents excessive government entanglement with religious institutions. Sectarian providers would not be required to hire certified or licensed competent professionals. Charitable choice would create a system in which non-sectarian providers must meet state requirements while sectarian providers would be freed from meeting state licensure and other employment standards. Such a dual system is untenable. Religious organizations are already entitled to receive federal funding by complying with the rules for charitable organizations.

Charitable choice undermines state requirements. The millions of people suffering

from addiction, their families, employers and communities may be left unprotected from incompetent treatment.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

Issues/Legislation: S. 289—"The Effective Substance Abuse Treatment Act"—Senator Spencer Abraham (R-MI), Co-Sponsors—Senators Paul Coverdell (R-GA), Tim Hutchinson (R-AR), Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Sen. Rod Grams (R-MN)

Areas of Concern: This legislation will override state alcoholism and drug licensure and certification laws, undermining state guarantees of safety in alcoholism and drug addiction treatment. This bill states that alcohol and drug treatment counseling is not a professional field and that formal education for counselors is detrimental to the practice of effective counseling. In fact, education enhances the provision of alcoholism and drug addiction treatment. Finally the legislation remedies a problem that does not exist. Religious organizations are already entitled to receive federal funding by complying with the rules for charitable organizations.

Provisions of Concern: The language at issue is contained in Title IV of the Community Renewal Act, and Section 2 of the Effective Substance Abuse Treatment Act. Both would amend Title V, Sec. 585 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa et seq.) The proposed provisions state that:

1. "... formal education for counselors ... may undermine the effectiveness of [treatment] programs." This statement is incorrect. As treatment has grown more complex, the need for continuing education and formal education has also grown. Those most aware of new treatment technologies and capabilities are better able to provide appropriate treatment for all patients.

2. "... educational requirements ... may hinder or prevent the provision of needed drug treatment services." Establishing standards and requirements for the administration of treatment ensures that treatment delivered to patients is effective. It does not deny access to those services. As with the treatment of all other diseases, holding treatment professionals accountable protects the safety of the public.

3. States which require formal education to deliver treatment services "shall give credit for religious education and training equivalent to credit given for secular course work in drug treatment ..." Alcohol and drug counselors (ADCs) constitute the one group of professionals who specialize in the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of psychoactive disorders and other substance abuse/use/dependency. These counselors possess a constellation of knowledge that is unique to the alcoholism and drug abuse counseling profession, and distinguishes ADCs from other related professions and specialties. Religious education and training is not equivalent to this knowledge.

4. States must waive their education qualifications for treatment personnel if, "(iv) the State ... has failed to demonstrate empirically that the educational qualifications in question are necessary to the operation of a successful program." This legislation undermines a State's ability to protect the public by licensing and certifying qualified treatment providers. It imposes a mandate from the Federal government requiring the States to fund religious programs or face the costs of defending requirements which the State and local governments believe are necessary for protection of the public. States will be required to conduct research without being provided the means to accomplish it. States are unlikely to have the resources to spend on a demanding empirical defense of their rule and consequently may relax treatment

standards to allow unfit organizations to deliver treatment with federal funding.

5. Under this legislation programs and state agencies are not required to notify individuals who are placed in religious programs, that they have the right to receive alternative services. Additionally, there is no requirement that alternative services be accessible. Individuals who enter treatment programs are frequently in a medically or mentally vulnerable situation. Despite this, S. 289 currently states that religious treatment providers may require active participation in religious practice worship and instruction. (Note: Unlike previous versions of the community renewal act, S. 289 no longer contains the specific requirement allowing sectarian providers to compel compliance with religious worship). Forced or coerced religious activity is inappropriate and may be unethical under counseling guidelines.

Conclusions: Spirituality is an important component of treatment, and mechanisms already exist to being this aspect of recovery to patients. Indeed, religious organizations are free to receive federal funds by creating a non-profit, "religiously affiliated" agency to provide services in compliance with state certification and licensure laws. However, by stating that establishing formal education requirements may hinder treatment and by attempting to equate degrees in theology with knowledge about alcoholism and drug dependence, charitable choice undermines treatment efforts and removes scarce funding from effective treatment programs.

The alcohol and drug treatment profession is currently engaged in efforts in almost every state to create and reinforce standards of practice for alcohol and drug treatment, just like the standards (licenses) states currently have for doctors and other health care providers. Such regulations establish an organized system which ensures that the delivery of this vital health care service is provided by trained and experienced professionals who have met rigorous educational and training requirements prior to serving in the sensitive position of Alcohol and Drug Counselors. Under this new legislation, "pervasively sectarian" institutions such as houses of worship, would be permitted to provide government services while claiming exemption from state regulations. This legislation would not allow the government to oversee the hiring practices of religious institutions even if complaints were made against the institution. Charitable choice would overrule the judgment of the states and would allow treatment to be provided without respect to minimal standards, undermining public safety in the provision of this necessary service. This legislation hurts the field of alcohol and drug addiction treatment along with the millions of people suffering from addiction, their families, employers and the communities in which they live.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out for those who may be viewing this in their offices and elsewhere that this is not really a close vote situation. We had 346 Members for this earlier on juvenile justice last week; the Vice President supports this concept, particularly on drug treatment, as do most Republicans. We have already had several Democrats supporting this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished friend and colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds all Members that they are to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of this resolution, just as I supported charitable choice when it was a matter of discussion some years ago.

Mr. Speaker, when my wife and I moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1966, we decided that we wanted to join a church that would make a difference, a church that would make a difference in the community. In particular, we joined the Eastern Avenue Christian Reform Church, a member of a small but strong and wonderful denomination.

□ 1545

We have made a difference through that church, and that church has been a strong voice in the community. It is the type of faith-based effort that this country needs.

Through this small church, small but very active, we managed to start a food program which has fed many, many people through a cooperative effort. We were instrumental in starting a community center which has sprung off and become a multimillion dollar operation providing tremendous service to the community.

We were also instrumental in helping start a housing program which is now developed into an independent organization which has rehabilitated close to 100 houses at this point for low-income individuals, and they now are enjoying home ownership.

This, incidentally, happened before Habitat For Humanity was founded. Let me describe just a little bit the food program that we have established which operates in the church basement every Saturday morning.

Members of the church and other volunteers go to suppliers throughout the community. We acquire, through donation, produce, bread, many other vital essentials; and we bring them to our church basement.

We run a small supermarket there every Saturday morning. Individuals coming through can buy supplies that they need for their daily existence for roughly 10 cents on the dollar. A poverty stricken family can come in and for \$10 buy a couple of weeks worth of groceries and other essentials.

It has worked very well. It has served young and old, able and disabled, Hispanic and Vietnamese, black and white. It has served everyone. It has been a real boon to the community. Many of the volunteers have come from the community themselves, and many of them have worked for many, many years on this effort.

These are examples of activities carried on by faith-based organizations,

and they have proven to be far more effective per dollar expended than any government program I have ever seen.

I think it is simple common sense that the Federal Government encourage these faith-based organizations and, in fact, make use of them in trying to solve the problems of our Nation, particularly those dealing with poverty.

Two cautions I want to offer. First of all, we have to make sure that the churches do not proselytize, in other words, do not violate the separation of church and State in that sense, even though they are working in the name of God to serve the people around them.

Secondly, the government should take care not to try to govern the faith-based organizations.

I strongly support this resolution, and I hope many churches across this country will follow this example.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is the unanswered questions about this legislation that bother me the greatest. But I must say that I consider it an affront to the integrity of this House that we would debate such a fundamental constitutional issue, regardless of which side my colleagues are on on this resolution, fundamentally important constitutional issues such as church and State separation, the establishment clause of the first amendment, in fact the first 16 words of the Bill of Rights, under a Suspension Calendar with no committee consideration.

I think Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison would be ashamed of the process that we are going through today. But let us talk about what unanswered questions we have in this debate, in this little time for debate.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) has answered our questions by saying, yes, under this legislation, let me be clear, yes, under this legislation Federal funds will be allowed to hire and fire people based on race discrimination, religious discrimination, sex discrimination.

Mr. SOUDER. Point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Does the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Souder)?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry. Why is it not a point of personal privilege when a statement is made about racism which I did not make. The question was on religion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Statements in debate do not give rise to a question of personal privilege. Is the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) raising a point of order?

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw my inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) may proceed.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, under this legislation, if one simply reads it, which most Members of this House have not yet done, a religious organization could say, based on their religious creed, they would not hire someone based on the fact that that person is a woman. A Christian may not hire someone because he is Jewish. A Jewish group may not hire someone because they are Christian. In some religious faiths, they may not hire someone because of the color of their skin.

This bill directly endorses job discrimination, and worse yet job discrimination using Federal taxpayers dollars. For that reason and that reason alone, this House should reject this legislation and H.R. 815 which it supports.

But that is the answered question. Let us look at the unanswered questions. According to this bill, if a participant in a program is Jewish, working in a Baptist Church that has won the government program, could that Jewish program be forced to say the Lord's Prayer? If the program is an Islamic mosque, would a Christian be forced to follow the rules of Islamic law, including women in America following the rules of Islamic law? If a Buddhist group is running a program, would Jewish and Christian citizens in the program be forced to pray to Buddha?

If a Baptist group is running a program, would the Catholic be forced to say the Protestant version of the Lord's Prayer? If reciting New Testament proceedings is basically a process that a church goes through that has won these Federal funds for this program, can they force an Islamic or a Muslim or a Jewish person to read from the New Testament?

Well, how about this. What about a Wiccam group? It says we are not going to discriminate based on the religion. The courts have said the Wiccams are religious group identified in this country. What if the Wiccam group has a religious service where they honor the sun and the moon and circle as they do with candles? And they actively participate in that process in my district in Central Texas. Can they force a Christian alcoholic to participate in the Wiccam religious services? If my colleagues say yes, that is religious discrimination.

What if the Santeria, a religion than practiced, and a religion as defined by the Supreme Court of the United States, what if the Santeria win a Federal grant to administer alcohol programs? Since my colleagues say they cannot discriminate based on religion, does that mean that the Santerias can force a Presbyterian to participate in the decapitation of a chicken's head, because that is part of the prayer ritual the Santeria religion?

The fact is, there are too many unanswered questions in this legislation that go to the heart, the reason why our Founding Fathers chose the first 16 words of our Bill of Rights, to be committed to protecting religion against

government intervention, that we should reject this legislation.

According to these proponents, we would think that the first 16 words of the Bill of Rights are a shackle on religious freedom. That is absolutely wrong. Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison, others involved in drafting that legislation did not write the establishment clause to shackle religion in America. They did it to shackle government from intervening into the religious freedom of individuals. Political conservatives should be terrified by this legislation.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) already knows, Title 7 of the 1964 Civil Rights Act allows a religious organization to discriminate in employment on the basis of religion. This amendment simply clarifies that in spite of all the statements on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT).

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and to point out that we just heard a very good example of what I call faith phobia. This faith phobia has taken over the country, that anyone with values and beliefs is a problem.

I support this resolution, not just to recognize what nonprofit community organizations, faith-based organizations are doing, but to point out that they are doing our work all across America better than we are.

There is an organization in my district called Mobile Meals. Every day, people from throughout the community rise at about 4:00 in the morning and feed about 1,700 people every day. They do it for one reason, to share the love of God with people in the community. They spend less than a million dollars a year. It compares with the federally funded group that does the same thing that spends over \$6 million a year.

If we look around my community and I am sure my colleagues' community, the people that are feeding the hungry, that are clothing the poor, that are freeing those enslaved to drugs, that are building homes for the homeless, and providing a place for people to live who need it all across the community, these are faith-based organizations working side by side with community organizations.

If, as a government, we are going to say that, because there is some faith involved, that we cannot use these organizations to help Americans, then we are going way down the wrong road. We need to recognize that we have been making a mistake. We have not been separating the State from religion. We have been separating religion from America. It is time that we stop that at the Federal level and recognize that, if we want to help Americans, let us let faith-based organizations work side by side with community and local governments to really help America.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make two points. First is in response to the last speaker. I think the fact that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs strongly opposes this legislation today really undermines the gentleman's argument or suggestion that people of faith should be for this Federal funding and faith-based organizations.

Secondly, I would like to correct the statement made by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) when he failed to point out that the Supreme Court in 1989 ruled that, when an organization such as this case, the Salvation Army was using Federal funds to hire people, they could not fire someone based on religion.

In this particular case, the Salvation Army could not fire a Wiccam because of his religious belief. So the gentleman is really in a quandary. Either one can endorse religious-based discrimination using Federal funds, or is one going to say to the Baptist Church of Waco, Texas that they must hire Wiccams. Perhaps they must hire Satanic worshipers. Perhaps they must hire people of religious faith that are inconsistent with their own.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I inquire of the Chair how much time each side has remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), our third Democrat to speak on behalf of this in a rare bipartisan effort to try to reach out to those who are hurting.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I think the Founders are rolling over in their graves. I do not believe any Founder intended to envision an America without school prayer or without support for faith-based programming. The Founders intended to ensure there would not be State-sponsored legislation creating one religion in America.

I believe all this technical mumbo jumbo has served to eliminate God from America. I want to be associated with those Members who will, in fact, look at the technicalities and include God. A Nation without God is a Nation that has invited the devil. Congress, open your eyes, because they have rolled out the carpet in America for the devil with a bunch of technical mumbo jumbo that is no more the intent of Founders than pornography.

I stand for this legislation, period. I think it is time, Mr. Speaker, to look at our cities, look at our schools. They could fund all the programs they want, but they are not going to be successful with a technical mumbo jumbo argument that God is the reason why they cannot do it because the Founders said so.

That does not work with JIM TRAFICANT at all. I believe the technicality has been stretched much too far.

I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) and with those who support this legislation. I believe they are right, and I urge the Congress, with a little bit of technical oomph, to vote aye on the legislation.

□ 1600

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am a member of an African American church. I grew up in an African American church, a Baptist church. I attended seminary, and am a licensed and ordained Baptist minister. But I believe in the separation of church and state.

If the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) wants to consider and call the Bill of Rights mumbo jumbo, that is all right, he has that right, but for me and my house, I am going to stand with the Founding Fathers, not with the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, some prior speaker said this was a good resolution except for the unconstitutional parts, and I tend to agree with that.

I think there is a lot this resolution has to offer except for the parts that we have referred to. I think we just need to, so we know what the Founding Fathers might have envisioned, read what is in the bill that this resolution endorses.

First, on discrimination: It provides that a religious organization that is a program participant may require an employee rendering services to adhere to the religious beliefs and practices of such organization, and any rules of the organization regarding the use of alcohol and drugs.

Now, the gentleman from Indiana has acknowledged that discrimination may occur. In fact, he wants to extend the title 7 exemption to churches which are allowed to discriminate on a religious basis when they hire people who are ministers and things like that. But this would extend it to federally-sponsored drug programs. And it would be a new day in America when a federally-sponsored drug program can hang out a sign that says, people of certain religions need not apply for a job because of their religions.

Let us go along to whether we can have coerced religion. Page 75, line 23, a religious organization may require a program beneficiary to actively participate in religious practice, worship and instruction, and follow the rules of behavior devised by the organizations that are religious in content and origin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The time of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. SCOTT was allowed to proceed for 30 additional seconds.)

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, there is also a part in here that has congressional findings. It says, Congress finds that establishing formal educational qualifications for counselors and other personnel in drug treatment programs may undermine the effectiveness of such programs, and such formal educational requirements for counselors may hinder or prevent provision of drug treatment services.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether people want discrimination or whether they want coerced religion, but religious groups oppose this, professional drug counselors oppose this, civil rights groups oppose it, and we should all oppose this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has extended 30 seconds to each side.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 207, the legislation under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard some red herring arguments this afternoon about whether something violates separation of church and state. I might remind the Members that we are not voting on the American Community Renewal Act, which has been cited and debated and is merely cited in the resolution. We are voting on a Sense of the House Resolution that targets aid and money to poor communities across this Nation.

Regarding the issue of separation of church and state, if Members oppose that American Community Renewal Act on that basis, then they should oppose Pell grants. With a Pell grant students use Federal grant money to go to seminaries, to go to Notre Dame, Yeshiva University without raising constitutional concerns. The Substance Abuse Act grant that this cites is no different.

Currently, there are two voucher programs we have successfully, legally implemented, the child care block grant in 1993, so that parents could use Federal day care dollars at the provider they choose, religious or secular; second, the new welfare law allows States to contract out their social services to both religious and nonreligious providers.

The drug treatment provision is the same. It voucherizes substance abuse block grants and allows the addict to decide. They can opt out. I urge Members to support the resolution.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the family unit is the core institution that instills in future generations the common values that we share as a society. Raising a child is a daunting task even in the most stable environ-

ments, but for families in distressed areas it is even more difficult.

We all know those pastors and community leaders in these neighborhoods—who have counseled that teenage mother—or prayed with the chronically unemployed—or lifted the spirits of those who sleep wherever they can lie their head. We do not have to list grave statistics about our inner cities or rural areas, because these are the people who are on the front-lines everyday.

That is why I support this resolution and the involvement of faith-based organizations in community development. In our urban and rural communities, the concerns of high unemployment, drug addiction and unsuitable housing have seemingly gone unnoticed during America's "economic boom." These problems can no longer be ignored—now is the time for our government to give faith-based organizations the opportunity to help resurrect America's neighborhoods.

For years our government has spent billions of dollars on Federal programs to help America's poor, and for the most part these offerings have not met with great success. It is painfully obvious that a new model is needed in revitalizing America's urban and rural communities. In February JIM TALENT, DANNY DAVIS, and I introduced the American Community Renewal Act. This legislation is designed to help communities and local leaders succeed where big government programs have failed. The American Community Renewal Act will help neighborhoods by—creating jobs—reducing burdensome regulation—increasing home-ownership—encouraging savings, and strengthening the institutions in these neighborhoods that have already begun making a difference.

However, community renewal must go beyond merely the scope of economics. We must provide support to the institutions that have historically held our country together—community, faith and family. With the eligibility of faith-based institutions to Community Renewal programs, we hope to achieve not only economic renewal but spiritual and moral renewal as well.

The essence of this resolution is not about ideology—it's about helping America's less fortunate. It's about providing a faith-based organization with the opportunity to reach out its hand, to pull that person out of the depths of drug or alcohol abuse. It is about that small businessperson providing a job to his or her neighbor. It's about putting a decent roof over somebody's head. But first and foremost, this resolution is about supporting the pillars of our country—community, faith, and family.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concerns regarding H. Res. 207 and its underlying legislation, H.R. 815, The American Community Renewal Act of 1999.

No one disputes the role that community and faith-based organizations play in sustaining and strengthening our communities and neighborhoods, our cities and towns. Throughout my career, I have shared the deep interest which motivates this resolution in harnessing the energy and creativity of community and faith-based organizations in developing solutions to our nation's persistent poverty and other serious social problems.

Instead, my concerns center on language in H.R. 815 which denigrates the importance of professional education and training to effective alcohol and drug treatment. H.R. 815 purports

to improve the availability of substance abuse treatment and counseling services. Instead, its provisions undercut the proven importance and competence of qualified service providers.

Let me specify the problematic sections of H.R. 815. In congressional findings, the bill states that "formal educational qualifications for counselors and other personnel in drug treatment programs may undermine the effectiveness of such programs" and "may hinder or prevent the provision of needed drug treatment services."

Mr. Speaker, this is simply untrue. Professional education is a foundation of effective substance abuse treatment and prevention. It is a critical basis for our country's longstanding efforts to treat and prevent substance abuse. Our current national drug control strategy is premised on the fundamental importance of medical and specialized training for substance abuse service providers.

Mr. Speaker, the accompanying provisions of H.R. 815 would undercut the States in certifying and licensing substance abuse service providers. They would require the States to accept religious education and training as wholly equivalent to drug treatment. Again, this runs headlong against our nation's efforts to work in partnership with the States, professional and community organizations in combating substance abuse. Indeed, religious organizations already play an important part in these efforts through federally funded and state-funded substance abuse programs.

I am deeply concerned that language of this kind is being contemplated to this time by the Congress. As a member of the Commerce Committee, I am involved in work which will lead to reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). These problematic provisions of H.R. 815 fly in the face of the vital accomplishments and continuing work of our Federal agencies on substance abuse treatment and prevention, including SAMHSA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) at the National Institutes of Health.

At this time, I wish to include for the RECORD a letter in opposition to H. Res. 207 which I received from a wide range of national patient and provider organizations, including the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, the Partnership for Recovery and the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

JUNE 21, 1999.

MEMBERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: The undersigned organizations oppose H. Res. 207 and the portions of the American Community Renewal Act which will hurt the provision of professionally competent alcohol and drug treatment services.

Unfortunately, the Community Renewal Act will undermine treatment effectiveness. The Act will override state licensure and certification of alcohol and drug counselors, crushing state guarantees of safety in alcoholism and drug addiction treatment.

The Act actually states that alcohol and drug treatment counseling is not a professional field and that formal education for counselors is detrimental to the practice of effective counseling. This is simply inaccurate. Alcoholism and drug addiction is a

disease. Consequently, alcohol and drug counseling has long required specialized knowledge and training compelling the use of professional practitioners. Education equals effective alcoholism and drug addiction treatment.

Even more troubling, the Act will require States which require formal education to deliver treatment services to "give credit for religious education and training equivalent to credit given for secular course work in drug treatment . . ." Alcohol and drug treatment is a medical service requiring medical knowledge. Treatment professionals specialize in the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of psychoactive disorders and other substance abuse/use/dependency. These counselors and other professionals possess a constellation of knowledge that is unique to the alcoholism and drug abuse counseling profession, and distinguishes ADCs from other related professions and specialties. Religious education and training is not equivalent to training given for the medical specialty of alcohol and drug treatment.

The Act also mandates States to waive their formal educational requirements under certain circumstances or face lawsuits. Finally the legislation attempts to remedy a problem that does not exist. Religious organizations are already entitled to receive federal funding by complying with the rules for charitable organizations.

All of our organizations seek to include spirituality in the lives of individuals. Spirituality is an important component of treatment, and mechanisms already exist to bring this aspect of recovery to patients without changing current law.

By stating that establishing formal education requirements may hinder treatment and by attempting to equate religious education with knowledge about alcoholism and drug dependence, the Community Renewal Act undermines treatment efforts and removes scarce funding from effective treatment programs. Unfortunately, this legislation ensures that the millions of people suffering from addiction, their families, employers and communities will be harmed by incompetent treatment.

The Community Renewal Act will hurt the provision of professionally competent alcohol and drug treatment services. For this reason, we urge you to vote against H. Res. 207.

Sincerely,

American Counseling Association; American Methadone Treatment Association; American Society of Addiction Medicine; Association of Halfway House Alcoholism Programs of North America; College on Problems of Drug Dependence; Legal Action Center; National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers; National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors; National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors; National Association of Student Assistance Professionals; National Coalition of State Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Prevention Associations; National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare; National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence; National TASC; Partnership for Recovery; The Betty Ford Center; Caron Foundation; Hazelden Foundation; Valley Hope Association; Research Society on Alcoholism; Therapeutic Communities of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 207.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PATRIOT ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 210 and ask for its immediate resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 210

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 659) to authorize appropriations for the protection of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields in Pennsylvania, to direct the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields, to authorize the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Resources now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each title shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio

(Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, before proceeding, I would like to take a minute to add my personal congratulations to those that have been extended from all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on the tremendous honor that was recently bestowed on our colleague the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL). The Nobel Peace Prize, for which the gentleman from Ohio has been nominated, is among the most extraordinary measures of individual achievement that can be accorded to any man or woman from any country anywhere in the world.

The gentleman's deep commitment to fight hunger throughout the world is well known to all of us here in the House, so I will not belabor that point. But clearly, this is a Member of Congress whose tireless efforts reach far beyond the walls of this building, indeed far beyond the borders of this country. Literally countless numbers of the world's neediest people have benefited from the often lonely and frequently tireless efforts of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL).

It is not my intention to embarrass my colleague, Mr. Speaker, but simply to take a moment and give credit where credit is due, which has also been done in a very deserving way, as evidenced by the nomination of this prestigious honor.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 210 would grant H.R. 659, the PATRIOT Act, an open rule providing 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. The rule makes in order as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Resources now printed in the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered for amendment by title.

Mr. Speaker, the rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on any postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

H.R. 659 is a relatively noncontroversial measure reported out of the Committee on Resources on April 28 by a

voice vote. The bill would authorize a total of \$4.25 million for the Federal Government to acquire land necessary to protect the Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields in Pennsylvania. The bill authorizes the Valley Forge Historical Society, in agreement with the Secretary of the Interior, to construct the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historic Park in Pennsylvania. Once construction of the museum is complete, the bill requires all titles and interests be transferred to the Federal Government with the understanding that the Valley Forge Historical Society will continue to operate the museum.

The battles of Paoli and Brandywine took place in September of 1777 and were significant in the outcome of the American Revolution. The Battle of Brandywine was the largest land battle of the Revolution, and it was following these two battles that colonial troops, led by General George Washington, made their legendary camp at Valley Forge for the winter of 1777 and 1778.

Finally, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that enactment of H.R. 659 will cost the Federal Government about \$5 million over the next 5 years. Because the bill does not affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

As I have already mentioned, Mr. Speaker, this legislation was reported without dissent by the Committee on Resources. Accordingly, the Committee on Rules is pleased to recommend an open rule for consideration of the bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his very kind words relative to the nomination. It was very nice of him to say that, and it is very encouraging to hear those kind of words on the floor of the House. So I thank him very much.

This is an open rule. It will allow for fair and full debate on H.R. 659, which is a bill to protect two American Revolutionary War battlefields. It also permits the construction of the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution within the Valley Forge's National Historic Park.

As my colleague from Washington described, this rule provides 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. The rule also permits amendments under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

Mr. Speaker, the American Revolutionary War is one of probably perhaps the most important events in the his-

tory of our Nation, and it is therefore appropriate that we preserve the battlefields associated with the war and to make them available to the public. This bill would help protect the Brandywine and the Paoli Battlefields not far from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The battles here were an important part of our fight for independence.

This is a bipartisan bill, it has support on both sides of the aisle, it is an open rule, and I support the bill and the rule.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for his very kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) in whose district at least one of these battlefields are located.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague for his cooperation and for the support of both the minority and the majority sides on the rule.

I want to add my comments to those in praise of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL). During the 13 years I have been in Congress, we come to respect certain people; and I can tell my colleagues, there is no Member I hold in higher regard than the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) for his untiring effort on behalf of people all over the world and the problems associated with hunger.

So let us just hope for the best. We are solidly behind him in this body, and I think he represents an example for this entire country in terms of the kind of qualities we want in our elected officials. So, again, congratulations for being nominated.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. It is bipartisan. It is non-controversial. I rise under the rule because I do not want to discuss the details but rather to extend to my colleagues the significant amount of effort that was put forth by the Democrats and Republicans to find a solution to the potential development of one of the last remaining sites of the Revolutionary War.

The site that we are talking about in Paoli is directly adjacent to a site where 53 patriots were killed. They were slaughtered by the British. In fact, in such a terrible way that this battle became a rallying cry, for our soldiers for the rest of the Revolutionary War, the battle cry became "Remember Paoli" because of the way the British used bayonets to basically tear apart young Americans, Americans who were 19, 20, 21, and 22 years old.

If we do not protect this site, and this is not being done as a way to add

to the Federal park land, this is being done locally and every dollar of money that we appropriate is being matched dollar for dollar by the local folks. In fact, in the case of Paoli, all but \$100,000 of the \$1.25 million has already been raised. The State has kicked in money; the County has. And the local folks, school kids, who have kicked in thousands of pennies in their "Pennies for Paoli" campaign, to other interested citizens who have made this a massive effort to protect one of America's real treasures.

In fact, last July 4, "Good Morning America" did a Focus for Independence Day, and that focus feature was on the Paoli Battlefield and how important it was for America to protect this site.

So I am saying to my colleagues, as we go into this open rule, please consider carefully amendments. We have the full support of the administration in this effort. It was very carefully crafted to make sure the Park Service would agree. There is nothing being done here to take land that will be acquired other than in a voluntary way. The money is being matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

It also sets up a process to do the same type of acquisition for the Brandywine Battlefield and also allows for the Park Service to look at a study on the possible cooperation between the Valley Forge Historical Society for a new museum. It is a non-controversial bill. It is one that is in the best interest of America. It protects sites that otherwise may be consumed by developers.

The current owners of the 40-some-acre Paoli site, the Malvern Preparatory School, have said, if we do not move in the Congress, they are going to put it up for open sale. The estimates are that it could generate tens of millions of dollars for private development. However, they have offered that if the Federal Government takes the initiative to support the local folks, they will guarantee the sale price at \$2.5 million. That means that the \$1.25 million that has been committed to by the local folks will be matched by \$1.25 million from the Federal Government.

The land would actually be owned by the Borough of Malvern. In the case of Brandywine, it will be owned either by the Brandywine Conservancy or by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. So we are not adding to the size of our Park Service.

We also call for a study by the Park Service to look at how the interpretation of Paoli and Brandywine can be better coordinated with Valley Forge. Because these two battles, the Paoli massacre and the Battle of Brandywine, were key parts of the struggle that led to our historic encampment at Valley Forge and the major battle to protect our capitol at Philadelphia when the British were making the move to take over Philadelphia and to take over control of this country.

So these are very important sites. This bill is a very important process. I

would ask my colleagues during the debate on the bill to please keep in mind that the administration is solidly behind this and any amendments that have not been supported by the administration could well doom this bill to defeat. So I ask them to please consider that as they look to possibly offer amendments as we get to the bill itself.

I want to thank my colleagues and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) who has been very supportive for the minority side for his outstanding work as a leader from the region and again the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for his outstanding work and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG). And really all the members of the Committee on Resources have been so helpful in this process.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to join forces with the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) about his kind words of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) our distinguished member of the Committee on Rules.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) has endured a lot of personal sacrifice and tragedy over the last years. But even during that time, there has never been a more outspoken and more active advocate to relieve hunger in the world. He has done a marvelous job, and we appreciate what he has done.

Now, I support the rule, and I am going to support the bill. I have a little amendment, I say to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), that says that all these historic landmarks of Pennsylvania be moved to Ohio and all the funds go to the 17th District of Ohio.

No, it does not really do that. It is just a little amendment that says whatever funds we give and they create a museum or anything, it is just the sense of the Congress. Because just today, another 350 jobs in Franklin, West Virginia, are going overseas.

The Traficant amendment says they are not compelled to but to consider expending the dollars on American-made goods. I know that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) will not oppose that.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague for yielding, who does such a fantastic job in this body and knows that I support, I think, almost everything that he stands for and speaks to. We have a great working relationship.

As my colleague knows, the money that we are talking about is going to actually buy land, which obviously will be American land. But I appreciate the efforts of the gentleman in constantly reaffirming to the American people that we are using their tax dollars to always buy American products.

I would not object to the amendment of the gentleman. Of course, I would have to defer to our leader because he is actually controlling the movement in this piece of legislation.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, society, though, will in fact build a museum. And, hopefully, the museum will consider this little, innocent amendment.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 210 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 659.

□ 1623

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 659) to authorize appropriations for the protection of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields in Pennsylvania, to direct the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields, to authorize the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and for other purposes, with Mr. LAHOOD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 659 introduced by my colleague the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

H.R. 659, the Protect America's Treasures of the Revolution for Independence of Our Tomorrow Act of 1999, otherwise known as the PATRIOT Act, is a very important bill that is necessary to protect two significant battlefields of the Revolutionary War and begin the process of developing a much needed new visitor center at Valley Forge National Historical Park.

This bill would authorize appropriations for the protection of the Paoli and Brandywine Battlefield in Pennsylvania. Appropriations for these battlefields must be matched dollar by dollar by non-Federal sources.

H.R. 659 also directs the National Park Service to conduct a special re-

source study of both the Paoli and Brandywine Battlefield to see if they warrant inclusion into the National Park System.

This bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Valley Forge Historical Society to construct and operate a museum within the boundaries of the Valley Forge National Historical Park. The construction of this facility is needed in order to accommodate the many visitors to Valley Forge.

After the museum has been built, all right, title, and interest would be conveyed to the Federal Government. However, the Society would continue to operate.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good piece of legislation. It has bipartisan support and is supported by the National Park Service. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 659.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 659 is a comprehensive measure that provides assistance for the preservation of two Revolutionary War battlefields in Pennsylvania. In addition, the bill authorizes the public-private partnership agreement for the construction of a museum on Federal land within Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Title I of H.R. 659, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide up to \$1.25 million to assist in the protection and preservation of the area known as the Paoli Battlefield. It also authorizes up to \$3 million to assist in the protection and preservation of an area known as the Meeting House Corridor, part of the Brandywine Battlefield.

In both instances, the funds provided are for land acquisition and all funds provided by the Secretary are to be matched dollar for dollar by non-Federal sources.

The Secretary is also authorized to provide technical assistance and to enter into cooperative agreements to provide for ownership and management of the battlefield by the non-Federal partners.

Title I further authorizes a special resource study of the two battlefields.

Title II of H.R. 659 deals with a Valley Forge National Historical Park, which is so ably represented by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL). The bill authorizes the Secretary to enter into an agreement under appropriate terms and conditions with the Valley Forge Historical Society to construct the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution on park property. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) has been a strong supporter of this provision of the bill, and for that he is to be commended.

Unlike some other proposals for public-private partnerships regarding park visitor centers, this proposal has been

developed in a non-controversial manner.

The Committee on Resources adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute for H.R. 659 that clarified several items in the bill and provided some additional safeguards regarding the development of a cooperative agreement for a museum at Valley Forge National Historical Park. With these changes, we support this legislation and ask our colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for unanimous consent to have the balance of my time be controlled by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL).

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Puerto Rico?

There was no objection.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) the sponsor of this piece of legislation.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank my good friend the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for yielding me the time. He has just been unbelievable in supporting this effort, which has involved well over a year. And without his support as the subcommittee chairman, we would not be here today. And without the support of the full committee chairman the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), we would not be here today. They have just been tireless in their support of our effort to preserve these sites before they would be developed.

I also want to add my thanks to the ranking member, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO). He has been fantastic. I do not know whether he has left the floor or not. He is an outstanding individual and an outstanding leader. He sat through a hearing in which we had over 100 school children from all over Pennsylvania come in. Many of them had helped inspire thousands of letters that were written to Members of Congress in both parties asking us to remember the patriots that are being honored today with this bill.

Mr. Chairman, we know the names George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Ben Franklin. We know their names because they have been recognized as great patriots who fought in the struggle for our Nation to receive its independence. We visit their historical sites at Monticello and Mount Vernon and Franklin Court to learn more about these great people. But today I ask my colleagues, do we know the names John Wilson, William MaGee, or Charles Temple? I think not, Mr. Chairman, because these are the names of over 50 patriots who were slaughtered in the Paoli massacre.

□ 1630

These were young Americans. They were Americans who were 18, 19, 20 and

21 years of age, who only knew they were struggling to have freedom and independence from the tyranny of Great Britain. These patriots laid down their lives. In fact, Mr. Chairman, it was on the evening of September 20, 1777, that the British troops were moving on our National Capital at Philadelphia. There had been an unsuccessful battle at Brandywine. There had been another unsuccessful battle at the Battle of the Clouds. They were about ready to have a surprise attack on the British. But unfortunately, the British troops found out about it. The leader of the British troops decided that they would not use their weapons, their guns, but rather they were told not to have any weapons fired, but to let the American patriots fire, so the British could move on them in the dark of the night and only use their bayonets.

They did that, Mr. Chairman. The British used their bayonets in ways that we cannot describe and history could never convey to us in real terms. They slaughtered young Americans. They slaughtered them in such a terrible way that when the light of day came on September the 21st and people saw the remains of these young Americans, it was no longer called the Battle of Paoli. It was referred to as the Paoli Massacre.

Now, at that point in time, we were not doing well in our Revolution. In fact, the morale of our troops was at risk. We all know the stories of the encampment at Valley Forge only a few miles away from Paoli. But this battle and the slaughter of our troops inspired our troops. The rallying cry for the rest of the war was, remember Paoli, and remember those patriots who were torn apart by the bayonets of the British.

Mr. Chairman, that battle was a turning point in our struggle for independence. It was a turning point that allowed us to turn back the British and ultimately allowed us to prevail. Today, Mr. Chairman, that holy ground, that sacred ground, is being challenged. The owners of that piece of property, the Malvern Preparatory School, no longer need the land. The land is in the same condition it was over 200 years ago. Nothing has changed. They are saying they are going to have to sell it. Now, if they sell this on the open market, which they have projected they would do later this year if we do not take action, that land will bring tens of millions of dollars because it is along the Main Line that runs out of Philadelphia, a very wealthy and a very high-priced area. But the school has said that if someone comes up and offers to maintain this property as a public property for the people of America to celebrate one of the most sacred sites in our history, that they will sell it for \$2.5 million.

So what happened over 2 years ago was the folks in Chester County and southeastern Pennsylvania got together and they formed the Paoli Pres-

ervation Fund. They have raised all but \$100,000 that is necessary of the local match. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved a \$500,000 allocation. Chester County put money in. Schoolchildren raised thousands of dollars through their Pennies for the Paoli Campaign. Today, Mr. Chairman, as we are about to pass, hopefully, this bill with bipartisan support, all this will do is allow that money to be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Now, for those who are concerned that there might be some precedent here, that perhaps we are adding to our National Park land, that is not the case. The Borough of Malvern has agreed to be responsible for all operational funds for this site. There is no requirement for Federal dollars to be put in to police the site. The site will not be owned by the Federal Government. It will be maintained in its current status, and the same thing applies to the Battle of Brandywine, which the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) has been in the forefront here since he came to this body several years ago. That battlefield also straddles our congressional districts and is another important site that we must not lose to development.

Mr. Chairman, the final portion of this bill deals with an effort that all the major private collectors of Revolutionary War artifacts have agreed that they would work together with the Valley Forge Historical Society, one of the oldest historical societies in America, a nonprofit organization that currently has a huge collection of Revolutionary War artifacts. They have agreed that if we move forward, and the Park Service can come to terms with them, that they will fund with private dollars, yet controlled by the nonprofit Valley Forge Historical Society, a new museum that they estimate will be in the \$30 to \$40 million range. The museum will not be owned by a private citizen. It will be owned by the historical society, one of the oldest in America, and it will include all of the artifacts given to the historical society by the major collectors of these artifacts nationwide.

This is a good piece of legislation, Mr. Chairman. As I said before, schoolchildren have seen this as a way to impact our democracy. In fact, the children from a number of schools have traveled to this Capital, attended congressional hearings, and several of them actually spoke at that hearing. From Exton Elementary School, East Goshen Elementary School, the K.D. Markley School, the Sugartown Elementary School and many of the students at Malvern have come out and said this is something that America needs to do.

As I mentioned during the debate on the rule, "Good Morning America" last July 4 used this story about Paoli as their national focus piece as we celebrated the independence of America. Is it not fitting that if we pass this bill today, on this July 4, "Good Morning

America'' can come back and thank Members of both parties for their foresight and for their leadership in allowing this bill to move forward.

Mr. Chairman, I would be remiss if I did not mention one individual who has been a tireless advocate for this effort. While I am standing here as the original author of this bill, the credit for this goes to another great patriot, another great American, Pat McGuigan. It has been due to Pat McGuigan's diligence that we are here today, because Pat has committed his life to service on behalf of our country. He served in the military for, I believe, 31 years, from 1951 to 1982. He had assignments in Korea, Japan, South Vietnam, West Germany, Italy and the United States. He received during his service nearly two dozen awards and decorations. He retired from active duty as a command sergeant major and returned to service at the Valley Forge Military Academy, which is right near each of these sites. He served as a special assistant to the superintendent, a department head, and an instructor. He spent his time training young men for a future in service to their country. As many of us probably know, General Schwarzkopf is one of the famous graduates of Valley Forge. In 1991 until just recently, Pat continued his service to his community as manager of Malvern Borough. He dedicated the last 5 years to saving this land.

I ask our colleagues to join with us in a bipartisan effort in remembering the great patriots of this country, those who fought for our independence. I want to say to Pat McGuigan, you are an example of a modern-day patriot, as is the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) for his service to our country and to our people.

I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOFFEL) for his cooperation and leadership. I see the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) on the floor who has been a tireless advocate, and an original cosponsor of this, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and everyone else who has helped make this bill today become a reality.

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would like to start by thanking the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) for their leadership on this important legislation. I particularly want to compliment the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) for an extraordinary effort to bring this matter forward, for his kindness in reaching out to me as soon as I took office in a bipartisan fashion to work together on this bill, and to compliment him on the best congressional hearing I have ever attended, that he put together with schoolchildren from Malvern, that the gentleman from Utah presided over and the gentleman from Puerto Rico. It was a great day, a

great day for schoolchildren to be involved in celebrating American revolutionary history, and now we are seeing the fruits of the gentleman from Pennsylvania's efforts here on the floor.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for his cooperation and efforts on that day as well.

The PATRIOT Act, which is before us, is a very good piece of legislation. It would authorize \$1.25 million for the purchase of the Paoli Battlefield. It would authorize \$3 million for the purchase of the Brandywine Battlefield. It would authorize the National Park Service to work together to plan an aggressive and effective interpretation of those battlefields for the benefit of American citizens. And it would authorize the National Park Service to enter into a joint agreement, a private-public partnership, with the Valley Forge Historical Society to build a new visitors center at the Valley Forge National Historical Park to be run by the Park Service and a Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution to be run by the historical society, hopefully under one roof, in a way that would make the best possible experience for visitors to Valley Forge, with a new, up-to-date visitors center run by the Park Service and what will be an outstanding Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution run by the Historical Society of Valley Forge.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) has set forth very effectively the importance of what we are trying to save. The land that was involved in both the Brandywine Battlefield and the Paoli Massacre is truly land that was the beginning of the American revolutionary fight for freedom. It is true that the American forces lost at Brandywine. They were overrun by the British, although they did buy additional time to protect the city of Philadelphia a little while longer from the British invasion. And it is true that at Paoli, Americans were massacred at night and it truly was another disastrous defeat for America. But in those two military operations was forged the beginning of a winning spirit. Several months later, the American army under the leadership of General Washington retired for the winter to Valley Forge. We are all familiar with the history of the Valley Forge encampment. As far as I am concerned, that is where the American Revolution was truly won. No shots were fired. But because of the American army that arrived there tired and hungry and ill-clothed and ill-trained and ill-equipped emerged 6 months later, after the support of French military officers and Prussian military officers with the tremendous leadership of George Washington and American officers, the American forces emerged from Valley Forge in June of 1778 as an effective fighting force that went on to win our independence.

So we are memorializing here and saving and preserving the two battle-

fields that led to the encampment at Valley Forge, and we are offering an opportunity to give a far more impressive experience at Valley Forge with a new, revamped visitors center and a greatly improved opportunity for historical artifacts to be presented through a Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution. We will offer better education for the valor and the determination and the courage and the resolve that Americans showed at both those battle sites and for the 6 months where they survived a bitter winter at Valley Forge and emerged as an effective fighting army. We will preserve those battlefields so that future generations can appreciate the sacrifices that were made there. And the Park Service will be asked to interpret those battlefields and come up with a plan that is a meaningful description of the history and importance of those sites for the benefit of all Americans that visit.

The museum that is proposed at Valley Forge is desperately needed. The Valley Forge Historical Society was founded in 1918. They have a museum in the park now. It is not adequate. It does not have the space needed. It does not have the climate control to safely store all of the artifacts that they possess. And as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) has pointed out, additional artifacts are available for a new museum if a proper museum is built. It is a very exciting opportunity that the historical society and its President, Jean-Pierre Bouvel, have presented to the Park Service, a public-private partnership that will really make a difference and provide an excellent opportunity under one roof for a new visitors center and a new museum.

I urge all my colleagues to support this project. It will be a remarkable preservation, not just of open space but of historical open space that is fundamental to our national history and a remarkable partnership with the private sector through the Valley Forge Historical Society to better present the history of the American Revolution to all Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chairman, first I want to applaud the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) for introducing this legislation and for the leadership in protecting Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields and thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for his support and leadership.

Preserving America's historic treasures is essential if we as a Nation are to remember our past and our rich cultural heritage. It is particularly important to remember the sacrifices of our forefathers that they made to secure independence and build a new country which today is the world leader in freedom and democracy. Brandywine and Paoli Battlefields are among the few

Revolutionary War battlefields that remain unprotected and are threatened by rapid development in the region. It only takes a quick drive through the beautiful Brandywine region to see the rapid and congested development that is closing in on the battlefield grounds. For this reason, it is essential that the PATRIOT Act becomes law and that Brandywine and Paoli Battlefields are preserved for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

□ 1645

The PATRIOT Act will preserve a portion of the Brandywine Battlefield where the most intense conflict and loss of life took place. The Battle of the Brandywine was the largest battle of the Revolutionary War in terms of number of participants, approximately 26,000 British and American troops. It is the only battle where all the generals of both sides were convened. It was also the major conflict in the British campaign of 1777 that conquered Philadelphia. While the British eventually took Philadelphia, the Battle of the Brandywine was significant in delaying the British campaign and allowing the Congress to abandon the city and to move to Lancaster, also in my district, and then to York to escape the British takeover.

It is evident that the battles of Brandywine and Paoli are an integral part of American history. It would be a tragedy if this history were to be lost to rapid development. The local communities in the regions of Brandywine and Paoli have recognized this, they have worked together closely to preserve this land. In fact, I applaud the Brandywine community for already raising enough money to match the Federal assistance necessary for preservation. It is particularly encouraging to witness local students and their work to raise money to build support for the preservation of these battlefields.

I was once a school teacher before I went into public service. I know firsthand how important good education is to our children, and students in this region have the opportunity to grow up in an area rich with history. They have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the sacrifice that many Americans made for our freedom.

Chris Curtis, who is a student from Exton Elementary School in my district wrote a letter to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), to myself, urging Congress to protect the Paoli Battlefield by passing this act, and here is what he writes:

"I think you should preserve the Paoli Battlefield because 53 people died for our country there. We also want to remember Paoli because we don't want to forget or bury our memories of those who fought so hard for our freedom. We also need to remember the relatives of those who died there. We never want to forget that generation of brave soldiers who died for our country when it was just beginning."

I could not say it better myself.

For our children's sake we must preserve this valuable historic land. Preserving this land will ensure that future generations will be able to experience how the battle unfolded, and history connects people and nurtures identity and community. The local communities have been doing their part to preserve the land. They will continue to do so. It is now time for the Federal Government to do its part.

The Federal Government exists for the people. The people want and need to preserve this land. It is our duty to act accordingly. I urge support for House Resolution 659.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding this time to me. I want to thank and congratulate the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO) for their leadership in bringing this measure to floor on behalf of my constituents who are part of the region that will be most immediately benefit by this legislation. I thank my colleagues.

I also want to commend my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who has approached this legislation with his usual tenacity and enthusiasm and given us all a model to follow on the effort to get something like this to the floor. I congratulate him and all those involved, and I especially want to thank my new colleague and friend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) for his effectiveness in helping to move a piece of legislation this important to the floor this early in his tenure, and we appreciate his efforts.

I support this legislation for reasons of history, ecology and prosperity. The historical angle has been well described by my colleagues. There is a good chance that there would not be a United States of America without the bravery and valor of those who sacrificed their lives on the battlefields that will be commemorated and consecrated by this legislation. But not only is their sacrifice worthy of present mention, the reasons for which they have sacrificed have echoed through these very halls in the last few days.

We have spent much of our time debating issues of religious liberty, the establishment of religion, the importance of a well-regulated militia. Issues that were the core of the dispute over 200 years ago are the core of our debates and disputes in the last few hours. So for those who would doubt the relevance of this history, I would not direct them not to the events of several decades or centuries ago, I would direct them to the debates we have had on this very floor this very day.

For reasons of ecology I know that my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL), in particular has made the preservation of open space a major priority of his tenure here, and those of us who are involved in this debate are pleased to join him in the preservation of some very important open space in an area that is under intense pressure for development.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) just said, one of the most desirable areas in America to live and develop a business are these areas. That is because they are so proximate to southern New Jersey I might add for the record. But there is intense scrutiny and pressure for development. It is very important that this is one of the tools for open space preservation that is at our disposal, and we are very wise to use it under this legislation.

Finally, for reasons of prosperity, I would note that there are 1 million schoolchildren living in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, proximate to the location of the sights that are mentioned in this bill. Two of them are my schoolchildren, and I know that those schoolchildren will benefit greatly from the proximity of these consecrated sights and the museum which I am sure will follow so they can learn the lessons of our history and apply those lessons in an intelligent way to our future.

So I would again commend the author of the legislation for his tenacity. He is doing a great service to our region. I am very proud to stand with him in support of this legislation.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I thank our distinguished chairman. One of my privileges in this Congress has been to join the Committee on Natural Resources, and particularly the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), and I really enjoyed this. I sought out appointment to this committee because of my interest in historic preservation and in the roots of our Nation.

My friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is not only an enthusiastic champion, he is probably the foremost expert on Russia, and I had a great privilege to go with him in December. In understanding the roots of our liberty and our traditions and our culture is essential, and part of that is the part of our park system in the development of the understanding and the outreach of that park system, and I wanted to make two points:

In addition to Pennsylvania clearly being much of the cradle of our liberty from Independence Hall out to Valley Forge and Paoli and Brandywine and the capital moving to York, and my personal favorite, John Dickenson, the letters of Pennsylvania farmer who then argued against the revolution, but while the others were still talking, he

went out and actually fought. Pennsylvania has all this centered there.

And I want to make a couple points: One is the battlefield integrity. It is really important for the understanding of American citizens to be able to go out where there has not been a lot of alteration, and as we work in our national parks, in the historic parks it is not supposed to be a natural preserve, it is supposed to be a historic preserve so we can understand what the soldiers faced at that particular point in time, and when we have these rare opportunities to get that land, we should purchase it.

Secondly, visitor centers, and I think in the current budget pressures we have no choice but to move to more public-private partnerships. There are dangers in the commercialization of our park system, but if we do this right, we can actually expand our ability to provide information not only to young people, but to adults.

A couple of points with this:

One is we need better visitor centers in a number of our key historical parks so that we can make history more understandable. Secondly, the artifacts that we have, as was mentioned here related to Valley Forge, is also true at Gettysburg, and other locations are often scattered.

Many of them are in harm's way, and we need better facilities to restore these. Once they are lost, they are permanently lost, and there are some places that are so critical to our American history, we should try to preserve these before they are lost and protect them before they are lost to future generations.

And then the outreach programs. There is no question that one of the largest movements in education in America, as we have seen it in the Committee on Education and the Workforce and other places, is towards brain research and trying to and capitalizing on the new research results and findings that are showing that kids interact so much better when they can sense something, participate in something, in addition to just being taught it.

As we see our national parks and our historic parks in particular reaching out to involve those schoolchildren in interactive activities, it is a major advance. They often have pre-and post-programs that they can send, and we ought to be looking at ways not only for the regional areas around Pennsylvania who will have access to this but the many field trips that come into Washington, D.C. have access to this type of thing too because it is a way to get our young people involved so they understand the fundamental underpinnings of our liberty, what people had to do and fight for to get there.

It is not just something handed to them, and so much of the efforts of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, particularly in the historic areas is critical to our long-term preservation of liberty in America, and

I want to congratulate all my colleagues from Pennsylvania who have been a leader in this in addition to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK).

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me, and first of all I want to applaud my colleagues because this is a very good bill, and I want to support it. But I cannot stand by without taking this opportunity to also talk about another battlefield which is located in Pennsylvania where a great difference was caused, a great difference in holding our Nation together, and that is the battlefield at Gettysburg.

The difference between this bill and what is occurring at Gettysburg is the fact that these projects are an example of how a process should work, of how input should be across party lines, it should be at various levels of government, it should be with people in the community, and so this is a very fine bill. It is going to do a lot of wonderful things so that the heritage of our Nation, as portrayed at Brandywine and Paoli, are going to be preserved for generations to come.

I hate to be the skunk at a garden party. It would be nice to come to the floor and only talk about all of the wonderful things this bill does. But we cannot expect to remember what happened at Brandywine and Paoli and what happened during the Civil War at Gettysburg if we are not willing to step forward and express some discomfort ourselves to protect the speech and the rights of the people around those battlefields, the people who care about our heritage, who care about what is going on in our Nation, and I am very troubled by what is occurring at Gettysburg.

Mr. Chairman, there is an attempt, and in fact a general management plan was just approved by the Interior Department last Friday for a public-private partnership in Gettysburg, and I know that many of the members of this committee have expressed their concern and their consternation, but still the Department of Interior and the Parks Department continues to move forward.

People in the community have said that they are upset that they do not have input in this plan, and still the Interior Department and the Bureau of Parks continues to move forward. This new visitors center in Gettysburg is going to move farther away from the downtown area where I would remind my colleagues that Day Two of the Battle of Gettysburg was fought. In fact, the confederates over ran the town of Gettysburg.

Many very important things occurred in Gettysburg, and now, unlike the visitor center that is currently there, many pedestrians will be unable to walk over a mile from where this new site is proposed to be built to the town of Gettysburg. And so businessmen who

have invested in the community, historical groups that have fought to preserve what has happened in Gettysburg, will all be left behind, and all of this will be moved a mile away from the City of Gettysburg. And in this plan over 600 acres of trees will be taken down, 45 acres of which are going to be destroyed where this new site is planned.

The problem with what is occurring is that unlike the visitor center that Congress is about to authorize today for Valley Forge and unlike the visitor center that Congress has already authorized for the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, for Zion, and Rocky Mountain National Parks, they also involved public-private partnerships.

Now Congress will not have a role in what is going on at Gettysburg because of a loophole. What is the loophole? The Gettysburg visitor center is planned to be built within the parks of the national park, but it will be built on private land so that none of the federal procurement or workers protection will apply to the construction or operation of that visitor center.

□ 1700

What does that mean? It means that none of those visitors' centers, that the other visitors centers that I mentioned at the other sites involved commercial loans or commercial activities. At Gettysburg you will see a huge cafeteria that is going to take away business from the local restaurants.

We will also see that the ability to skirt Federal rules on employment, of contracting and procurement, rules like Davis-Bacon and rules requiring competitive bidding to protect against sweetheart deals will be waived at Gettysburg. Congress needs to have the ability to step back and tell the Interior Department, the Bureau of Parks, let us listen to the community. Let us answer the questions about what is going on at Gettysburg.

I am really troubled, and I would say to all of my colleagues, one of the men who owns some of the property there is a gentleman named Eric Uberman. He appeared on the Today Show on NBC this morning where he was asked questions about this. He found out on the QT that, in fact, Federal employees were in his business, people who work for the Parks Department, he imagines, taking photographs surreptitiously, surveillance of his property. I have those photographs here.

I would ask my colleagues, what is going on? When we are talking about the protections at Brandywine, at Paoli, when we are talking about preserving our country at Gettysburg, how can we in Congress stand by and allow a Federal department, whether it is the Department of the Interior, whether it is the EPA, whether it is the FBI; we are talking about all of the great courage that was shown on these battlefields. Can we not in Congress show some courage and say, it is up to us,

the elected people of the people's House, to determine if the Federal Government has run roughshod over these businesses? If the employees from the Parks Department or the Interior Department who took all of these photographs of the interiors and exteriors of businesses in Gettysburg, if they had a legitimate purpose, why did they not go to Mr. Eric Uberman? Why did they not step forward and say, in determining what our plan is going to be, we need to take some pictures of your business, and we want your input, too, Mr. Uberman. Why did Mr. Uberman have to find out on the QT and then file a FOIA, which took well over a month, to get access to those photographs?

It is up to us, I say to my colleagues. We talk about courage. We talk about those who died during the Revolutionary War, who died during Gettysburg and who preserved this Nation at a time of strife during the 1860s. What about 1999? Is this Congress any less patriotic to step forward to protect these businesspeople? Even if they are right, if the Interior Department is right, if the Parks Department is right, why do we not step forward and say, hold your horses, stop; let Congress investigate this.

Again, I laud all of my colleagues. I am in support of this bill. I will offer and withdraw my amendment simply so we can have it in the record, and I will call on my friends in this Congress to act with me over the next 30 days. We have a 30-day period. Let us call this bureaucracy to account for what they have done. Let us make sure that what we are doing at Gettysburg is just as responsible, just as well thought out, as what we are doing today at Paoli and Brandywine.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time for the appropriate thank yous. We stand up on this floor and we take credit when legislation is passed, but all of us in this body know that the real credit for the legislation goes to those staff people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to work with us to help make things happen. It would be inappropriate for me not to recognize those people who helped make this day possible.

I want to thank Todd Hall for his outstanding work on our behalf; Alan Freemayer from the full committee for his work. I want to thank Cheri Sexton and Marsha Stewart. I want to thank Rick Healy for his tremendous help. There he is over there on the minority side. It was, in fact, a bipartisan staff effort that allowed us to get here.

I would be totally remiss if I did not mention my staffer who has spent 2 years working this issue, Erin Coyle.

This is her first major bill. You did a fantastic job, Erin Coyle, so you can bask in the glory of the passage of this bill today. Without you, it would not have happened.

I also want to say to our colleagues, Mr. Chairman, this is a unique bill. When my distinguished friend had the hearing, the key witness was none other than George Washington. George Washington in the form of Jim Gallagher, who has played George Washington in the reenactment of the Delaware River crossing for something like 10 years, came down to Washington and actually presented the testimony as perhaps General George Washington would have done 200 years ago to protect this site. So we thank General Washington, Jim Gallagher, for being here.

Ed Barrs, who is the historian emeritus of the Park Service for his cooperation; from the Park Service itself Don Berry; Jim Pepper and Arthur Stewart from Valley Forge.

I also want to thank the local folks. Governor Ridge, State Senator Thompson, State Representative Flick; county commissioners from Chester County, Republicans Carla Hanna and Karen Martynick and Democrat Andrew Denniman. They were unanimous in their support.

I also want to thank Henry Briggs from the Malvern Borough; the Chester County Chamber of Commerce, Rob Powson; and the local council member of Malvern, Sara Bones, who constantly prodded this through.

It was a tireless effort on behalf of many people, and again, I want to thank everyone for allowing us to get to this point in time.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would simply like to add to that long list of thank yous that the gentleman just read a thank you and compliment to Jon Pierre Bouvel of the Valley Forge Historical Society for his leadership in marshalling local support for this public-private partnership; and also thanks to Paul Decker, the Executive Director of the Valley Forge Convention and Visitor Bureau and a number of Montgomery County officials who have been in strong support of this public-private partnership at Valley Forge.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule by title, and each title shall be considered read.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the Congress-

sional RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to not less than 5 minutes the time for voting by electronic device on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote by electronic device without intervening business, provided that the time for voting by electronic device on the first in any series of questions shall not be less than 15 minutes.

The Clerk will designate section 1.

The text of section 1 is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protect America's Treasures of the Revolution for Independence for Our Tomorrow Act" or the "PATRIOT Act".

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any amendments to section 1?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KLINK

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. KLINK:

Page 2, after line 6, insert the following new section:

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN NEW CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior may not authorize the construction of any visitor's center or museum in the proximity of or within the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park, unless Congress has specifically authorized the construction of such visitor's center or museum.

(b) APPROVAL IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION INEFFECTIVE.—If the Secretary, through approval of a General Management Plan or any other action, approves construction of a visitor's center or museum in violation of this section after June 15, 1999, approval of such construction shall not be valid and shall have no force or effect.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall be deemed to have been enacted and taken effect on June 15, 1999.

Mr. KLINK (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is not germane under rule XVI, clause 7 of the Rules of the House of Representatives because it deals with a different subject matter than the text.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Chairman, I ask to be recognized against the point of order.

Mr. Chairman, as I said during the general debate, and I understand that the point of order will probably be sustained, and so I would, therefore, not try to be repetitive. I understand that the chairman has expressed himself some concerns about the same thing, and I do not want to be redundant; however, I would like to be recognized for one moment.

Because what is happening, Mr. Chairman, at Gettysburg is atrocious. I think this probably does relate to these other battlefields. That is why we thought this was the amendment to bring this amendment forward.

Again, the Park Service has decided that they need to move a new visitors' center a mile or so outside of the town of Gettysburg. The problem is that the people of Gettysburg have not been able to address this problem. They have not been part of the decision-making. That is why this amendment, I thought, was so important to this bill.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK) will suspend.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, let me respectfully point out that the gentleman from Pennsylvania is not speaking to the point of order, but is speaking to his amendment. As I understand it, he should confine his remarks to the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's remarks should be addressed to the point of order.

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Chairman, I think that during the general debate I have had the opportunity to make my point on this bill, and I respect greatly the chairman and ranking member of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate title I.

The text of title I is as follows:

TITLE I—PAOLI AND BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELDS

SEC. 101. PAOLI BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION.

(a) PAOLI BATTLEFIELD.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to provide funds to the borough of Malvern, Pennsylvania, for the acquisition of the area known as the "Paoli Battlefield", located in the borough of Malvern, Pennsylvania, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Paoli Battlefield" numbered 80,000 and dated April 1999 (referred to in this title as the "Paoli Battlefield"). The map shall be on file in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the borough of Malvern, Pennsylvania, for the management by the borough of the Paoli Battlefield. The Secretary may provide technical assistance to the borough of Malvern to assure the preservation and interpretation of the battlefield's resources.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,250,000 to carry out this section. Such funds

shall be expended in the ratio of \$1 of Federal funds for each dollar of funds contributed by non-Federal sources. Any funds provided by the Secretary shall be subject to an agreement that provides for the protection of the land's resources.

SEC. 102. BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION.

(a) BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to provide funds to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, or the Brandywine Conservancy, for the acquisition, protection, and preservation of land in an area generally known as the Meetinghouse Road Corridor, located in Chester County, Pennsylvania, as depicted on a map entitled "Brandywine Battlefield—Meetinghouse Road Corridor", numbered 80,000 and dated April 1999 (referred to in this title as the "Brandywine Battlefield"). The map shall be on file in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(2) WILLING SELLERS OR DONORS.—Interests in land shall be acquired pursuant to this section only from willing sellers or donors.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the same entity that is provided funds under subsection (a) for the management by the entity of the Brandywine Battlefield. The Secretary may also provide technical assistance to the entity to assure the preservation and interpretation of the battlefield's resources.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out this section. Such funds shall be expended in the ratio of \$1 of Federal funds for each dollar of funds contributed by non-Federal sources. Any funds provided by the Secretary shall be subject to an agreement that provides for the protection of the land's resources.

SEC. 103. STUDY OF BATTLEFIELDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a resource study of the property described in sections 101 and 102.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall—

(1) identify the full range of resources and historic themes associated with the Paoli Battlefield and the Brandywine Battlefield, including their relationship to the American Revolutionary War and the Valley Forge National Historical Park; and

(2) identify alternatives for National Park Service involvement at the sites and include cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives identified.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there amendments to title I?

If not, the Clerk will designate title II.

The text of title II is as follows:

TITLE II—VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution Act of 1999".

SEC. 202. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Valley Forge National Historical Park, formerly a State park, was established as a unit of the National Park System in 1976. The National

Park Service acquired various lands and structures associated with the park, including a visitor center, from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(2) Valley Forge National Historical Park maintains an extensive collection of artifacts, books, and other documents associated with the Continental Army's winter encampment of 1777–1778 at Valley Forge, Revolutionary War-era artifacts of military life, important archaeological resources, and numerous structures and associated artifacts.

(3) Between 1982 and 1997 the National Park Service completed a general management plan, long-range interpretive plan, and strategic business plan for Valley Forge National Historical Park that establish goals and priorities for management of the park.

(4) These plans identify inadequacies in the park's current visitor center and interpretive programs. The plans call for the development of a new or significantly renovated visitor center that would make the collection accessible to the public through exhibits and research facilities. Plans also call for improving the interpretation of the landscape and improving the circulation into and through the park.

(5) The Valley Forge Historical Society was established in 1918 as a nonprofit organization to preserve and interpret for future generations the significant history and artifacts of the American Revolution in their historic setting at Valley Forge. The Valley Forge Historical Society has amassed valuable holdings of artifacts, art, books, and other documents relating to the 1777–1778 encampment of Washington's Continental Army at Valley Forge, the American Revolution, and the American colonial era. The Society continues to pursue additional important collections through bequests, exchanges, and acquisitions.

(6) The Society's collection is currently housed in a facility inadequate to properly maintain, preserve, and display their ever-growing collection. The Society is interested in developing an up-to-date museum and education facility.

(7) The Society and the National Park Service have discussed the idea of a joint museum and education and visitor facility. Such a collaborative project would directly support the historical, educational, and interpretive activities and needs of Valley Forge National Historical Park and those of the Valley Forge Historical Society. A joint facility would combine 2 outstanding museum collections and provide an enhanced experience at Valley Forge for visitors, scholars, and researchers.

(8) The Society has proposed to raise funds to construct a new museum and education and visitor center on park property at Valley Forge National Historical Park that would be planned, developed, and operated jointly with Valley Forge National Historical Park.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Valley Forge Historical Society to construct and operate a museum within the boundary of Valley Forge National Historical Park in cooperation with the Secretary.

SEC. 203. VALLEY FORGE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AUTHORIZATION.

(a) AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Interior, in administering the Valley Forge National Historical Park, is authorized to enter into an agreement under appropriate terms and conditions with the Valley Forge Historical Society to facilitate the planning, construction, and operation of the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution on Federal land within the boundary of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

(b) CONTENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT.—An agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall—

(1) authorize the Society to develop and operate the museum pursuant to plans developed by the Secretary and to provide at the museum appropriate and necessary programs and services

to visitors to Valley Forge National Historical Park, related to the story of Valley Forge and the American Revolution;

(2) only be carried out in a manner consistent with the General Management Plan and other plans for the preservation and interpretation of the resources and values of Valley Forge National Historical Park;

(3) authorize the Secretary to undertake at the museum activities related to the management of Valley Forge National Historical Park, including, but not limited to, provision of appropriate visitor information and interpretive facilities and programs related to Valley Forge National Historical Park;

(4) authorize the Society, acting as a private nonprofit organization, to engage in activities appropriate for operation of a museum that may include, but are not limited to, charging appropriate fees, conducting events, and selling merchandise, tickets, and food to visitors to the museum;

(5) provide that the Society's revenues from the museum's facilities and services shall be used to offset the expenses of the museum's operation; and

(6) authorize the Society to occupy the structure(s) so constructed for the term specified in the Agreement and subject to the following terms and conditions:

(A) The conveyance by the Society to the United States of America of all right, title, and interest in the structure(s) to be constructed at Valley Forge National Historical Park.

(B) The Society's right to occupy and use the structure(s) shall be for the exhibition, preservation, and interpretation of artifacts associated with the Valley Forge story and the American Revolution, to enhance the visitor experience of Valley Forge National Historical Park, and to conduct appropriately related activities of the Society consistent with its mission and with the purposes for which the Valley Forge National Historical Park was established. Such right shall not be transferred or conveyed without the express consent of the Secretary.

(C) Any other terms and conditions as may be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 204. PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION.

Nothing in this Act shall authorize the Secretary or the Society to take any actions in derogation of the preservation and protection of the values and resources of Valley Forge National Historical Park. An agreement entered into under section 203 shall be construed and implemented in light of the high public value and integrity of the Valley Forge National Historical Park and the National Park System.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there amendments to title II?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TRAFICANT

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment to the end of the bill, section 205.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. TRAFICANT:

At the end of the bill add the following new section:

SEC. 205. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE GOODS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the Society, in constructing and operating the museum, purchase American-made goods to the greatest degree practicable.

Mr. TRAFICANT (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, this amendment basically urges the soci-

ety, which I think is an excellent construct, to, in fact, making this bill a worthwhile bill for all of America, it encourages that society that when they expend dollars, that they expend those dollars on American-made goods and products. There will be many visitors. It does not compel them, but if anything, it is a reminder that even at our great landmarks and our great treasures, that wherever possible, if we buy American-made goods, America will be stronger.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, as usual, our friend from Ohio has come up with an excellent amendment, and this side accepts the amendment.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, I urge an "aye" vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there other amendments?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland) having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 659) to authorize appropriations for the protection of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields in Pennsylvania, to direct the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields, to authorize the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 210, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on the amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The Chair announces that immediately after this vote, proceedings will resume on a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1175 considered earlier today, and that will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 4, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 245]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie	Clement	Gephardt
Ackerman	Clyburn	Gibbons
Aderholt	Coble	Gillmor
Allen	Collins	Gillman
Andrews	Combest	Gonzalez
Archer	Condit	Goode
Armey	Conyers	Goodlatte
Bachus	Cook	Goodling
Baird	Costello	Gordon
Baker	Cox	Goss
Baldacci	Coyne	Graham
Baldwin	Cramer	Granger
Ballenger	Crane	Green (TX)
Barcia	Crowley	Green (WI)
Barr	Cubin	Greenwood
Barrett (NE)	Cummings	Gutierrez
Barrett (WI)	Cunningham	Gutknecht
Bartlett	Davis (FL)	Hall (OH)
Barton	Davis (IL)	Hall (TX)
Bass	Davis (VA)	Hansen
Bateman	Deal	Hastings (FL)
Becerra	DeGette	Hastings (WA)
Bentsen	Delahunt	Hayes
Bereuter	DeLauro	Hayworth
Berkley	DeLay	Hefley
Berman	DeMint	Herger
Berry	Deutsch	Hill (IN)
Biggert	Diaz-Balart	Hill (MT)
Billirakis	Dickey	Hilleary
Bishop	Dicks	Hilliard
Blagojevich	Dingell	Hinchee
Bliley	Dixon	Hinojosa
Blumenauer	Doggett	Hobson
Blunt	Dooley	Hoeffel
Boehlert	Doolittle	Hoekstra
Boehner	Doyle	Holden
Bonilla	Dreier	Holt
Bonior	Duncan	Horn
Bono	Dunn	Hostettler
Borski	Edwards	Houghton
Boswell	Ehlers	Hoyer
Boucher	Ehrlich	Hulshof
Boyd	Emerson	Hunter
Brady (PA)	Engel	Hutchinson
Brady (TX)	English	Hyde
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Inslee
Brown (OH)	Etheridge	Isakson
Bryant	Evans	Istook
Burr	Everett	Jackson (IL)
Burton	Ewing	Jackson-Lee
Buyer	Farr	(TX)
Callahan	Fattah	Jefferson
Calvert	Filner	Jenkins
Camp	Foley	John
Campbell	Forbes	Johnson (CT)
Canady	Ford	Johnson, E. B.
Cannon	Fossella	Johnson, Sam
Capps	Fowler	Jones (NC)
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Jones (OH)
Cardin	Franks (NJ)	Kanjorski
Carson	Frelinghuysen	Kaptur
Castle	Frost	Kelly
Chabot	Galleghy	Kennedy
Chambliss	Ganske	Kildee
Clay	Gejdenson	Kilpatrick
Clayton	Gekas	Kind (WI)

King (NY)	Neal	Shimkus
Kingston	Nethercutt	Shows
Klecza	Ney	Shuster
Klink	Northup	Simpson
Knollenberg	Norwood	Sisisky
Kolbe	Nussle	Skeen
Kucinich	Oberstar	Skelton
Kuykendall	Obey	Slaughter
LaFalce	Ortiz	Smith (MI)
LaHood	Ose	Smith (NJ)
Lampson	Owens	Smith (TX)
Lantos	Oxley	Smith (WA)
Largent	Packard	Snyder
Larson	Pallone	Souder
Latham	Pascarell	Spence
LaTourette	Pastor	Spratt
Lazio	Payne	Stabenow
Leach	Pease	Stark
Lee	Pelosi	Stearns
Levin	Peterson (MN)	Stenholm
Lewis (CA)	Peterson (PA)	Strickland
Lewis (GA)	Petri	Stump
Lewis (KY)	Phelps	Stupak
Linder	Pickering	Sununu
Lipinski	Pickett	Sweeney
LoBiondo	Pitts	Talent
Lofgren	Pombo	Tancred
Lowey	Pomeroy	Tanner
Lucas (KY)	Porter	Tauscher
Lucas (OK)	Portman	Tauzin
Luther	Price (NC)	Taylor (MS)
Maloney (CT)	Pryce (OH)	Taylor (NC)
Maloney (NY)	Quinn	Terry
Manzullo	Radanovich	Thompson (CA)
Markey	Rahall	Thompson (MS)
Martinez	Ramstad	Thornberry
Mascara	Rangel	Thune
Matsui	Regula	Thurman
McCarthy (MO)	Reyes	Tierney
McCarthy (NY)	Reynolds	Toomey
McCollum	Riley	Towns
McCrery	Rivers	Trafficant
McDermott	Rodriguez	Turner
McGovern	Roemer	Udall (CO)
McHugh	Rogan	Udall (NM)
McInnis	Rogers	Upton
McIntosh	Rohrabacher	Velazquez
McIntyre	Ros-Lehtinen	Vento
McKeon	Rothman	Visclosky
McKinney	Roukema	Vitter
McNulty	Roybal-Allard	Walden
Meehan	Royce	Walsh
Meek (FL)	Rush	Wamp
Meeks (NY)	Ryan (WI)	Waters
Menendez	Ryun (KS)	Watkins
Metcalf	Sabo	Watt (NC)
Mica	Salmon	Watts (OK)
Millender-	Sanchez	Waxman
McDonald	Sanders	Weiner
Miller (FL)	Sandlin	Weldon (FL)
Miller, Gary	Sawyer	Weldon (PA)
Miller, George	Saxton	Weller
Minge	Scarborough	Wexler
Mink	Schaffer	Weygand
Moakley	Schakowsky	Whitfield
Mollohan	Scott	Wicker
Moore	Sensenbrenner	Wilson
Moran (KS)	Serrano	Wise
Moran (VA)	Sessions	Wolf
Morella	Shadegg	Woolsey
Murtha	Shaw	Wu
Myrick	Shays	Wynn
Nadler	Sherman	Young (AK)
Napolitano	Sherwood	Young (FL)

NAYS—4

Chenoweth	Paul
Coburn	Sanford

NOT VOTING—12

Bilbray	DeFazio	Kasich
Brown (CA)	Fletcher	Olver
Cooksey	Gilchrest	Thomas
Danner	Hooley	Tiahrt

□ 1736

Mr. STARK changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 245 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 659, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

LOCATING AND SECURING RETURN OF ISRAELI SOLDERS MISSING IN ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1175, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1175, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 5, answered "present" 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 246]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Campbell	Ehrlich
Ackerman	Canady	Emerson
Aderholt	Cannon	Engel
Allen	Capps	English
Andrews	Capuano	Eshoo
Army	Cardin	Etheridge
Bachus	Carson	Evans
Baird	Castle	Everett
Baker	Chabot	Ewing
Baldacci	Chambliss	Farr
Baldwin	Chenoweth	Fattah
Ballenger	Clay	Filner
Barcia	Clayton	Foley
Barrett (NE)	Clement	Forbes
Barrett (WI)	Clyburn	Ford
Bartlett	Coble	Fossella
Barton	Coburn	Fowler
Bass	Combust	Frank (MA)
Bateman	Condit	Franks (NJ)
Becerra	Conyers	Frelinghuysen
Bentsen	Cook	Frost
Bereuter	Costello	Gallely
Berkley	Cox	Ganske
Berman	Coyne	Gejdenson
Berry	Cramer	Gekas
Biggert	Crane	Gephardt
Bilbray	Crowley	Gibbons
Bilirakis	Cubin	Gillmor
Bishop	Cummings	Gilman
Blagojevich	Cunningham	Gonzalez
Bliley	Davis (FL)	Goode
Blumenauer	Davis (IL)	Goodlatte
Blunt	Davis (VA)	Goodling
Boehlert	DeGette	Gordon
Boehner	Delahunt	Goss
Bonilla	DeLauro	Graham
Bonior	DeLay	Granger
Bono	DeMint	Green (TX)
Borski	Deutsch	Green (WI)
Boswell	Diaz-Balart	Greenwood
Boucher	Dickey	Gutierrez
Boyd	Dicks	Gutknecht
Brady (PA)	Dingell	Hall (OH)
Brady (TX)	Dixon	Hall (TX)
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Hansen
Brown (OH)	Dooley	Hastings (FL)
Bryant	Doolittle	Hastings (WA)
Burr	Doyle	Hayes
Burton	Dreier	Hayworth
Buyer	Duncan	Hefley
Callahan	Dunn	Heger
Calvert	Edwards	Hill (IN)
Camp	Ehlers	Hill (MT)

Hilleary	McKeon	Scarborough
Hilliard	McKinney	Schaffer
Hinchey	McNulty	Schakowsky
Hinojosa	Meehan	Scott
Hobson	Meek (FL)	Sensenbrenner
Hoefel	Meeks (NY)	Serrano
Hoekstra	Menendez	Sessions
Holden	Metcalf	Shadegg
Holt	Mica	Shaw
Horn	Millender-	Shays
Hostettler	McDonald	Sherman
Houghton	Miller (FL)	Sherwood
Hoyer	Miller, Gary	Shimkus
Hulshof	Miller, George	Shows
Hunter	Minge	Shuster
Hutchinson	Mink	Simpson
Hyde	Moakley	Sisisky
Inslee	Mollohan	Skeen
Isakson	Moore	Skelton
Istook	Moran (KS)	Slaughter
Jackson (IL)	Moran (VA)	Smith (MI)
Jackson-Lee	Morella	Smith (NJ)
(TX)	Murtha	Smith (TX)
Jefferson	Myrick	Smith (WA)
Jenkins	Nadler	Snyder
John	Napolitano	Souder
Johnson (CT)	Neal	Spence
Johnson, E. B.	Nethercutt	Spratt
Johnson, Sam	Ney	Stabenow
Jones (NC)	Northup	Stark
Jones (OH)	Norwood	Stearns
Kanjorski	Nussle	Stenholm
Kaptur	Oberstar	Strickland
Kelly	Obey	Stump
Kennedy	Ortiz	Stupak
Kildee	Ose	Sweeney
Kilpatrick	Owens	Talent
Kind (WI)	Oxley	Tancred
King (NY)	Packard	Tanner
Kingston	Pallone	Tauscher
Klecza	Pascarell	Tauzin
Klink	Pastor	Taylor (MS)
Knollenberg	Payne	Taylor (NC)
Kolbe	Pease	Terry
Kucinich	Pelosi	Thomas
Kuykendall	Peterson (MN)	Thompson (CA)
LaFalce	Peterson (PA)	Thompson (MS)
LaHood	Petri	Thornberry
Lampson	Pickering	Thune
Lantos	Pitts	Thurman
Largent	Pombo	Tierney
Larson	Pomeroy	Toomey
Latham	Porter	Towns
LaTourette	Portman	Trafficant
Lazio	Price (NC)	Turner
Leach	Pryce (OH)	Udall (CO)
Lee	Quinn	Udall (NM)
Levin	Radanovich	Upton
Lewis (CA)	Ramstad	Velazquez
Lewis (GA)	Rangel	Vento
Lewis (KY)	Regula	Visclosky
Linder	Reyes	Vitter
Lipinski	Reynolds	Walden
LoBiondo	Riley	Walsh
Lofgren	Rivers	Wamp
Lowey	Rodriguez	Waters
Lucas (KY)	Roemer	Watkins
Lucas (OK)	Rogan	Watt (NC)
Luther	Rogers	Watts (OK)
Maloney (CT)	Rohrabacher	Waxman
Maloney (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen	Weiner
Manzullo	Rothman	Weldon (FL)
Markey	Roukema	Weldon (PA)
Martinez	Roybal-Allard	Weller
Mascara	Royce	Wexler
Matsui	Rush	Weygand
McCarthy (MO)	Ryan (WI)	Whitfield
McCarthy (NY)	Ryun (KS)	Wicker
McCollum	Sabo	Wilson
McCrery	Salmon	Wise
McDermott	Sanchez	Wolf
McGovern	Sanders	Woolsey
McHugh	Sandlin	Wu
McInnis	Sanford	Wynn
McIntosh	Sawyer	Young (AK)
McIntyre	Saxton	Young (FL)

NAYS—5

Collins	Paul	Sununu
Deal	Rahall	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Barr

NOT VOTING—13

Archer	Danner	Gilchrest
Brown (CA)	DeFazio	
Cooksey	Fletcher	

Hooley
KasichOlver
PhelpsPickett
Tiaht

□ 1747

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a United States citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 804

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 804.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 815

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor of the bill H.R. 815.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AMERICANS ARE NOT CELEBRATING SO-CALLED VICTORY IN YUGOSLAVIA

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, our "victory" in Yugoslavia has given us the right to spend \$30 to \$50 billion over the next several years to rebuild what our bombs destroyed. And, of course, our troops will get to stay there for years, at tremendous expense to our taxpayers. Already General Clarke is saying he needs thousands more of our soldiers.

And what did we achieve? Columnist Jeff Jacoby of the Boston Globe said, "The Yugoslav war, fought so as to minimize NATO's casualties, maximized the suffering of the people it was meant to help."

Columnist Linda Bowles said, "Almost all the ethnic cleansing occurred after the effort to rescue them began. More than 1 million refugees were driven from their homes. Perhaps the greatest price we will pay is to live in a world in which more nations and people hate, fear, and distrust America than at any other time in our history."

Columnist Charles Krauthammer said by the President's own standard, "The war was lost, irretrievably, catastrophically lost, in the first week."

Mr. Speaker, the President is on a victory tour, but I do not see many Americans celebrating.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the complete article I referred to above by Charles Krauthammer:

[From the Boston Globe, June 11, 1999]

DEFINING VICTORY DOWN

(By Charles Krauthammer)

The papers are signed. The troops are moving in. Victory.

Victory? On the eve of the Kosovo war, the president of the United States declares the objective: "To protect thousands of innocent people in Kosovo from a mounting military offensive." This would be done in one of two ways. We would deter Serbia from "ethnically cleansing" Kosovo or, failing that, we would physically—militarily—destroy Serbia's ability to do so.

By Clinton's own standard, the war was lost—irretrievably, catastrophically lost—in the first week. NATO launched a campaign at once anemic and tentative, a campaign of bombing empty buildings. Slobodan Milosevic responded with the most massive ethnic cleansing in Europe since World War II.

Now 11 weeks and a million refugees later, there is an agreement that permits a return to the status quo ante. Well, not quite: It will be a partial and imperfect return, given that many Kosovars are dead and many will not want to return. Moreover, what they are returning to is not Kosovo, but a wasteland that was Kosovo.

This is not victory. This is defining victory down.

It did not have to be this way. After all, Milosevic finally agreed to a partial undoing of his ethnic cleansing only when NATO attacks on his civilian infrastructure became intolerable. Why, then, did we not turn out the lights in Belgrade on Day One? Two weeks into the war, I wrote, noting the obvious, that "the only possible way out of this war short of abject defeat" was an air campaign of "seriousness"—hitting "power plants, fuel depots, bridges," the kind of war that actually kills combatants and inevitably civilians but that so debilitates the enemy nation as to bring it to a halt—and to the negotiating table.

Historians will puzzle over why Clinton and Blair and Schroeder and the rest did not do this until after Kosovo had been wiped nearly clean of Albanians. But it is no puzzle: Clinton thought that military minimalism—so congenial to the ex- and current pacifists in his coalition—was a win-win proposition for him.

Either Milosevic would fold in the face of a demonstration war or, if he did not, Clinton could do exactly what he had done after his little pre-impeachment three-day war on Iraq: take to TV, offer a gaudy list of targets hit, declare victory and go home.

What he had not counted on was Milosevic's public exposure of such a fraud. In Iraq, Clinton could pinprick and declare victory because there were no cameras to record his failure—nuclear and chemical weapons are being developed by Saddam unmolested, but for now unseen. In Kosovo, on the other hand, a million refugees parade before the cameras of the world. Not even Clinton could spin his way out of that defeat by calling it victory.

So the air war went on, finally got serious, and now we have something that is being called victory. But the supposed instrument of Serb surrender, the U.N. Security Council resolution codifying the cease-fire conditions, is riddled with ambiguities.

The central point throughout the conflict has always been who will run Kosovo after

Serb forces leave. The governing Security Council resolution authorizes an international security presence with "substantial" NATO participation. The command structure is not spelled out, and the Russians insist that their troops will not be under NATO command. If they are not, will they have their own occupation zone that will effectively partition Kosovo?

More muddle: Serbia is allowed a presence at the re-entry points for the refugees. Will that scare away the refugees? We don't know. And who is going to "demilitarize" the Kosovo Liberation Army?

I am not objecting to these compromises—they are the necessary accommodations to end an extraordinarily ill-conceived war. What I do object to is spinning it into a triumph. If this is such a triumph, does anyone imagine that we will ever repeat such an adventure?

And the final irony: Even if all the ambiguities are answered in NATO's favor, even if the Yugoslavs comply with every detail of the military agreement signed with NATO on Wednesday, what are we left with? The prize for victory: The United States and its allies are permitted to interpose their soldiers between mortal enemies in a continuing Balkan guerrilla war. For years.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FUNDING FOR NIH, AND THE ANNUAL BUDGET IMPASSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, later on this evening we plan to conduct a full special order of 1 hour on the subject of funding for the National Institutes of Health, an important budget item every year but increasingly important as we move closer to many discoveries and preventive disease matters that require the attention of the Congress. So we will be developing where we are and some of the plans that are in action towards that funding mechanism for that NIH.

In the meantime, though, I do want to bring the attention again of the Members to the pending year-end perennial budget impasse that we reach no matter what we try to do. The fiscal year ends September 30, and rarely, if ever, are we prepared on the next day to face a fully enacted new budget for the next fiscal year. What we have tried to do over the last 10 years, with some success but with increasing frustration that we are not able to complete the job, is to put in place an instant replay mechanism to prevent government shutdowns forever. That is to say that the appropriation bills that are incomplete on September 30 will be re-enacted automatically with the previous year's numbers for the next fiscal year until such time as the appropriations process brings about a new fiscal plan for the ensuing year.

This makes so much common sense that I fear that that is the one ingredient that makes it almost impossible for us to come together to pass it. But we will make another effort this year to demonstrate the necessity for such a mechanism. We cannot, I repeat, we cannot tolerate a government shutdown.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEKAS. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the earlier part of the gentleman's statement, when he mentioned his debate that will take place tonight, I fully intended to join with him, however, I cannot join with the gentleman tonight. But I fully support the funding for the research projects that the gentleman is talking about and I have submitted comments for the record. Hopefully, they will be inserted sometime during the gentleman's statements tonight indicating my support for that.

As to the CR, we will debate that at a later time. I would suggest to the gentleman, however, that we ought to look seriously at biennial budgeting, which would accomplish the same thing. If we ever got to biennial budgeting, I think we would see surpluses growing that second year at record levels, as was the experience of the Alabama legislature.

So I just wanted to tell the gentleman that I support what he is doing with respect to adequate funding for research and for all of the institutions that do this research, and that we will debate the continuing resolution at a later time.

Mr. GEKAS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, we will make certain the gentleman's comments are placed in the record with respect to the NIH, and then I will quarrel with him wherever and whenever I meet him, in the cloakroom or anywhere else, on the benefits that we can derive from an automatic CR on a year-to-year basis.

Mr. CALLAHAN. If the gentleman will continue to yield, far be it from me to match intelligence levels with the gentleman, because the gentleman is known for his knowledge of the institution. I just happen to have a greater depth of knowledge, I think, on the appropriation process, because I serve on that committee. But I thank the gentleman anyway.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I am available to the gentleman and he can try to convince me of that. But I warn the gentleman, he will have a tough battle on his hands.

Mr. CALLAHAN. I look forward to that.

REPEAL OF PRESSLER AMENDMENT MEANS MORE ARMS FOR RADICAL MILITANTS IN KASHMIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as both Houses of Congress work to lift the unilateral American economic sanctions on India and Pakistan, an effort I strongly support, another dangerous issue has been introduced into the mix, threatening stability in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, a provision in the defense appropriations bill, recently approved by the other body, the Senate, would suspend for 5 years the sanctions imposed last year on India and Pakistan after the two countries conducted nuclear tests. Last week, in this body, legislation was approved that would continue for 1 year the President's authority to waive the sanctions. These are worthy initiatives that I hope we can build on.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Senate legislation also includes language that would repeal the Pressler amendment prohibition on U.S. military assistance to Pakistan.

In 1985, Congress amended the Foreign Assistance Act to prohibit all U.S. aid to Pakistan if the President failed to certify that Pakistan did not possess a nuclear explosive device. Known as the Pressler Amendment, after the distinguished former Senator who sponsored the provision, this law arose from the concern that Pakistan was ignoring U.S. concerns about proliferation, despite promises of billions of dollars of U.S. assistance. In 1990, President Bush invoked the Pressler amendment to block aid to Pakistan.

Now, the Senate has acted to repeal the Pressler amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a serious mistake, as nothing has changed to justify the repeal of the Pressler amendment. Indeed, in recent weeks we have seen strong indications of Pakistani support for militants who have infiltrated into India's side of the line of control in Kashmir. Besides the so-called political and moral support for the militants that Pakistan acknowledges, there is growing evidence that Pakistan is providing material and logistic support for the militants, and that Pakistani army regulars are actually taking part in breaching the internationally recognized line of control in Kashmir. This is really in a cynical bid to ratchet up the tensions between India and Pakistan, and at such a time it does not seem prudent, in my opinion, to renew military transfers to Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, given the long and well-documented history of Pakistani support for and collaboration with the militants who have been perpetrating a reign of terror in Kashmir, there is every reason to believe that providing U.S. arms to Pakistan would result in these American weapons being funneled to the militants.

By arming Pakistan, we would be arming the militants responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians in Kashmir, and who are now contributing to the escalating tensions with India.

Mr. Speaker, there was an article in Saturday's New York Times entitled

"Kashmir Militants Seek Islamic State," and it describes how Islamic militants from several different nations are working to transform Kashmir from a tolerant secular democratic state, that people from many faiths call home, into an area under strict Islamic religious rule. I wanted to quote from this article by Times reporter Steven Kinzer. He says,

The campaign is in part a legacy of the proxy war the U.S. waged against Soviet forces in Afghanistan during the 1980s.

The article describes how having succeeded in driving the Soviet forces out of Afghanistan and establishing a form of religious rule there under the Taliban, these warriors are now turning their attention to Kashmir. And quoting again from the Times article, it says that,

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, militants from countries as far apart as Indonesia, Sudan and Bahrain have given interviews asserting that they learned the art of war from Americans and are now using their skills to fight the Indian Army. Many are evidently using not only tactics that Americans taught them, but also weapons Americans gave them.

In fact, the article notes how an Indian helicopter was shot down by an Islamic guerilla using an American made stinger missile, and that about a dozen more stingers, each capable of shooting down a plane or a helicopter, are unaccounted for in the region. The U.N. envoy in Srinagar is quoted as saying that,

Weapons provided for Afghanistan with large help from the Americans and CIA are now in the hands of the militants.

An Indian Army colonel states that, "The militants are using not only small arms that they got from the Americans, but also Stinger missiles and American anti-tank weapons. It's not only weapons, but also battle-hardened troops. It's a direct result of the American policy in Afghanistan."

Mr. Speaker, the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan was an important turning point contributing to the collapse of the Soviet Empire. Yet, one of the unintended consequences has been the creation of a radical movement of armed terrorists, mercenaries and militants who have imposed a repressive regime in Afghanistan, are trying to take over Kashmir, and who seem to have a great deal of influence within the Pakistani government and armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that during the Cold War our fear of Soviet expansionism led us to embrace regimes like Pakistan that do not share our values of democracy and tolerance. But in the post-Cold War era, there is no justification for militarily propping up such a regime. Maybe we cannot completely stop the militants who threatened Democratic India as well as American and western interests, but we can at least make sure we do not give them what they want most, and that is American arms. Sending military assistance to Pakistan amounts to a guaranty that these American weapons will be funneled to the militants. And given this sad reality, we must not repeal the Pressler amendment.

TRIBUTE TO NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated nutrition professionals who work in hospitals, WIC clinics, nursing homes, school lunch and breakfast programs, and many other settings where they are striving to improve the nutritional health of our Nation's citizens.

□ 1800

I would like to call special attention to one important segment of our population where nutrition services have proven to make a significant difference among our senior citizens.

In many ways, our Nation's health care system is the best in the world, partially because our free market system allows innovations to occur at a pace that is demanded by the health care consumer.

Unfortunately, too often the largest health program in the country, the Medicare program, is unresponsive and fails to keep pace with the advances that medical science demonstrates are effective.

In recent years, as science and society have uncovered more information about the critically important role of nutrition in the prevention, treatment and management of disease, more and more Americans have demanded that nutrition services be a standard part of their health care protection. In fact, by one estimate, 75 percent of all managed care health plans in America now offer some degree of coverage for nutrition therapy services.

Therefore, it is disheartening, Mr. Speaker, though perhaps not surprising, to realize that nutrition services are inadequately covered under the Medicare program. While the science of nutrition has advanced at a rapid pace over the last several decades, Medicare's coverage of nutrition services has remained largely static.

Under Medicare's conditions of participation, appropriate nutrition care is a standard part of the hospital program. However, the outpatient, or Part B, portion of the program fails to provide reliable nutrition coverage. It makes little sense to me that Medicare beneficiaries can receive comprehensive nutrition care only after they have become so sick that they are admitted to the hospital. For many years, health care treatment has been shifting away from inpatient facilities like hospitals and more toward outpatient settings. And yet, still we find Medicare adhering to an outdated system where nutrition therapy services are available only in the acute-care setting.

This clearly is a reflection of a system that is in need of change. Our modern health care program ought to ensure the adequacy and equitability of nutrition services in both inpatient and outpatient settings. A great num-

ber of diseases can be prevented and managed throughout patient nutrition therapy. Research proves that renal disease, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses respond well to nutrition interventions.

Nutrition professionals have documented the ability of well-nourished individuals to better resist disease and to tolerate other therapy than those who are under-nourished. These individuals are also better equipped to recover from acute illness, surgical interventions, and trauma. As a result, they experience fewer and shorter hospital stays, need less medication, and suffer fewer medical complications. All this can save money and lives.

A constituent of mine recently visited me and explained just how effective these services can be and what a difference they can make in people's lives. The constituent is a dietician from Florida who told me about a case involving her mother-in-law who lives in a different State.

During a routine medical visit, her mother-in-law was found to have a high blood sugar level. Her physician gave her medication and a blood glucose monitor to check her blood sugar level but gave her no directions about using the monitor or changing her diet. Within 2 weeks, she was hospitalized with severe low blood sugar and heart palpitations.

After working with a dietician, she is now off the medication and able to control other blood sugar level. However with nutrition counseling from the beginning, that hospitalization could have been avoided, saving the cost of the hospitalization as well as saving that mother-in-law from a life-threatening situation.

Now, I do not know if that physician lacked knowledge about the importance of nutrition in the treatment of diabetes or, knowing that the services were not likely to be reimbursed, did not want to put his patient to that expense. But the bottom line is that our health care system must provide patients with access to this important service.

According to my constituent, there are many other diseases that can be successfully managed with the medical nutrition therapy.

Mr. Speaker, I recently spoke with a constituent who is a dietetic intern working in the James A. Haley Veterans' Administration Hospital in Tampa, Florida. She described the rigorous educational and training requirements that she and others preparing for a career in dietetics must undergo.

With 5 years specifically devoted to the study of nutrition, registered dieticians learn to apply the principles of nutrition, biochemistry, and physiology toward the prevention and treatment of diseases. Most physicians understand that registered dieticians are the best qualified professionals to furnish nutrition therapy.

Clearly, registered dieticians are a valuable and indispensable part of the

health care team, and Medicare beneficiaries ought to have reliable outpatient access to the care they deliver.

This Congress, Mr. Speaker, should carefully examine coverage for medical nutrition therapy as one important way to help strengthen Medicare for our children and grandchildren.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to rise in support of the comments of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) this evening in support of medical nutrition therapy.

It is truly a tragedy that we seem unable to reorganize Medicare in such a way that preventive health measures like nutrition therapy can be adopted. In the first few years, \$2.3 billion could be saved, which would offset the overall longer cost of \$2.7 billion. After the third year, the savings outweigh the cost. And savings for patients with diabetes alone would total \$1.6 billion over the 7 years.

Since diabetes and cardiovascular disease affect 60 percent of the Medicare population, this is just clearly a good way to both save money and improve the quality of care.

The Lewin Group recently completed a study for the Department of Defense that estimated that annual net savings could be developed of \$3.1 million if medical nutrition therapy was included in the Tricare benefit program for our military personnel.

The evidence is just growing out there. I believe it is overwhelming. I thank my colleague tonight for taking the floor in support of medical nutrition therapy as a covered benefit under Medicare, and I join him in supporting that.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for her comments. There are not many people, if any, in this House of Representatives that know more about health care than the gentleman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) and I appreciate her comments.

It is typical, is it not, when we talk about preventive care that today's dollars are not taken into the consideration, the ultimate savings over the long haul?

WE MUST PREPARE TODAY'S YOUTH FOR TOMORROW'S ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, last week, Microsoft's Bill Gates and other leaders of the high-tech industry came to Washington and they came to tell us, among other things, that we need to do a better job of preparing today's youth for tomorrow's jobs.

Bill Gates is not alone. I hear the same message everywhere I go in my

district from CEOs of pharmaceutical companies in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, to managers of local restaurants in West Long Branch.

We literally cannot afford to wait to help our schools recruit, retain, and train qualified teachers. We cannot postpone work any longer in making sure Federal aid provides more flexibility conditioned on more accountability for results. Now is the time to work in partnership with our communities to ensure that we have a school infrastructure that we need for the 21st century.

The number of school children is growing at a record-setting pace. More than 52 million students are in school today, an all-time high. In my home State of New Jersey, we are experiencing very rapid growth. That is why New Jersey communities need assistance to help pay for the bricks and mortar required to have the smaller class sizes so our kids can learn and compete with students throughout the world.

Last week, I joined with other freshmen Democrats in writing a letter to our Speaker asking that we bring willing school construction legislation to the floor of this House for a vote. We look forward to his answer. And even more, we look forward to legislative action.

We are investing billions in new prisons. We are investing billions of dollars into our military installations. But should we not also be voting on providing the resources to help our communities build schools, as well? I think so, and so do the families of Central New Jersey.

Together with my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), I am working to help New Jersey towns afford modernized and new schools by providing tax credits to the holders of school construction bonds, in effect paying the interest on those bonds.

Under this bill, the local entity will still be responsible for paying the principal. The interest-free capital will leverage the amount of money available to meet the need to modernize our educational infrastructure in fast-growing communities, as we have in Central New Jersey. But "infrastructure" does not just mean classrooms, desks, and chalk boards. It means technology.

One of the areas I am most concerned about is technology education. It is changing our lives. Today, with the touch of a key, we can send billions of dollars of capital around the globe, where the cars we drive have more computing power than the Apollo spacecraft. There are no unskilled jobs. Even entry-level jobs demand basic computer knowledge.

Yet there is a move underway here in Congress designed to rob hundreds of thousands of Americans from developing the computer skills they need to compete in an increasingly competitive technological world. The e-rate, the popular program that provides dis-

count telecommunications and Internet technologies to elementary and secondary schools and libraries, may fall victim to politics. We simply cannot allow this to happen.

Telecommunications and computer technology are effective in helping students master complex skills that the business community sees as critical for the future workforce. According to a recent study, students who actively use the Internet for classroom projects submit more ambitious and more complete projects. Other studies are also showing that on-line resources boost student interest and student motivation. Students are learning more and in greater depth because they have access to resources beyond their classroom, resources that are more current than their textbooks and sometimes more knowledgeable than even their teachers. However, we need teachers who can teach these subjects.

A recent survey published by the Department of Education tells us that only 20 percent of teachers feel qualified to use the technology that is available to them now. That is why I have joined my colleagues the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) in cosponsoring legislation to help teachers teach technology education.

Teachers deserve to be treated like the professionals that they are so they can continue to grow in their profession. We need to ensure that they are receiving the training they need to perform the miracles we ask of them. Of all the important jobs in our society, nothing makes more of an impact on our children than a well-trained, caring, and dedicated teacher and no job is ultimately more important to our society.

Across the Nation, recruiting and retraining high-quality teachers is becoming a major concern. Topping our list should be better targeted and more effective professional development programs. It is time we encourage partnerships with other school districts, universities, labor unions, and the business communities.

My colleagues, Mr. DAVIS and Mr. ROEMER, who will be speaking with us shortly, have introduced legislation to give grants to colleges and universities to help them train these professionals as a second career. This is patterned on the very successful "Troops to Teachers" programs, and I recommend strongly that we support this legislation.

TIME IS UP FOR MEXICO TO RETURN ACCUSED KILLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House on a situation of grave concern to me and to the constituents in my district.

It has been 19 months since 13-year-old Stevie Bellush came home from school to find her mother's body on the kitchen floor.

Sheila Bellush, a young, vibrant 35-year-old and mother of six, had been shot in the face and her throat had been slashed. Her 2-year-old quadruplets were crawling in her blood next to her body. At that moment, it would have seemed inconceivable that the drama had only begun as the case turned into a national nightmare for our Sarasota community.

An overwhelming trail of evidence immediately led to Jose Luis Del Toro, who allegedly killed Sheila in a murder-for-hire scheme. Del Toro fled to Mexico, where he was arrested on November 20, 1997, 19 months ago, and he remains in Mexican prison.

Del Toro is a U.S. citizen born and raised in Texas. His parents are U.S. citizens. Mr. Del Toro is accused of driving from San Antonio, Texas, to Sarasota, Florida, to commit a murder, driving back to San Antonio, and then crossing the Mexican border to escape justice in this country. He had entered Mexico illegally and he was scheduled for deportation 2 days after his arrest in November of 1997. At the last hour, as border patrol agents in Texas were awaiting Del Toro's arrival at the border to take him into custody, Sarasota State attorney, Earl Moreland, received a phone call from officials at the Department of Justice who informed him that Del Toro's deportation had been canceled and that the United States will have to file a formal extradition request.

□ 1815

No reason was given for this change. Then the Department of Justice delivered a startling and dismal message. The State Attorney's office would have to waive the death penalty in order to obtain Del Toro's return. It was a difficult decision, but Mexican demands were agreed to in the hope that Del Toro would at least return to Florida to serve a life sentence. Nineteen months later, he has still not returned.

Tomorrow morning, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) will hold a hearing on this case in the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources of the Committee on Government Reform. This hearing is another important step in keeping the pressure on Mexico to return fugitives like Del Toro to the United States. Pressure needs to be applied not only to Mexico but to the administration as well to renegotiate our extradition treaty with Mexico to prevent other U.S. fugitives from escaping justice by merely walking across the border. Mexico should not be a haven for murderers. This is a case where a U.S. citizen was murdered, the accused is a U.S. citizen, Mexico has nothing to do with the case, and Del Toro should be promptly returned to this country so justice can be served. I greatly appreciate the gentleman from Florida having this hearing tomorrow.

As the old saying goes, justice delayed is justice denied, and I will not stand by quietly as justice is denied to my congressional district by a foreign entity who should have no interest in this case. Today's editorial page in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* reads, "Time's Up for Mexico." It begins, "The reasons for Mexico to extradite murder suspect Jose Luis Del Toro Jr. will be the same tomorrow as they were a year ago. The only difference is that Mexico can no longer cite the need for time as its inexcusable refusal to send Del Toro to trial in the United States." I could not agree more. I am here today on the floor of the House to say, "Mexico, your time is up. Send back Del Toro."

DEBATE ON GUNS AFFECTS THE DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last week we had a heartbreaking debate on guns. Women Members of this body felt this debate with particular poignancy. If the truth be told, we regard ourselves as special guardians of issues that affect women and families, not because we are such, we are after all, self-anointed, but because we choose to be. However, I ask you to imagine a bill that came from outside, thrown in like a piece of dynamite to wipe out all your local gun laws, whether you are from the West and treasure your right to have a gun or whether you are from a crowded city and treasure your right to ban guns.

Two amendments came forward that would have invaded my district with law from this body. We defeated one handily, that that simply wiped out handgun laws in the District of Columbia. The other, we almost defeated. That is the one I want to talk about this afternoon, because it is one that is of special importance to women and children, and that is a bill that would have allowed people in the District of Columbia to have guns in their home.

Some Members came up to me and said, "Well, that sounds reasonable to me to have a gun in your own home." So why should we not impose that on the District even though your city council has said otherwise and even though no Member here would impose anything on anybody else's district. Nevertheless, I can understand the surface appeal of a gun in your own home.

Ask the women in your own district why they do not want a gun in their own home. No woman in America wants a gun in the home and there is a very good reason why. The greatest cause of death of women is inflicted upon them not by rapists in the streets but by guns and knives in the hands of their own partners in their own homes as it is now. Most of them go to the hospital, the victim of beatings, often

severe. Imagine if guns were freely available in homes, particularly in large cities which have rampant domestic violence rates.

Most of those who think about guns in the home are surely unaware of the most tragic statistics of all, and they are not the statistics from Columbine. They are the statistics that are awesomely larger. They are statistics that show accidental killings occur routinely from guns that are simply lying in the home, often out of the reach of children but found by children whose natural curiosity often makes them look for guns. Very few guns are used the way they are in the movies to counter somebody entering through the bedroom window and you shoot them dead. That is not what happens to guns in the home. Look at the statistics and you will know. But in big troubled cities there are other hazards in addition.

The lady who takes care of my handicapped daughter when I told her about how some people wanted guns in the homes gave me I think the best wakeup call of all. She said, "Oh, my God, what will happen to these bad teenagers?" The first she could think of is in her high crime neighborhood in southeast Washington, the troubled teens would be all over the place. She has a hard enough time with them now, but if they think that everybody is packing a gun in her neighborhood, she did not know what she would do. I know that because I represent this city. I do not expect Members to know that who do not. That is why I do not expect them to impose guns on me when my city council has not done so. In this town, particularly in high crime neighborhoods, the criminals and, yes, the teens would be breaking in not looking for computers but looking for guns because they hear the people are packing guns now because the Congress says, "That is the thing to do if you live in a high crime city, pack your gun in."

I do not need this body to send this message to a city that is one of the most violent cities in the United States and that our police chief is just getting under control. He was at the forefront of those who said he did not want our handgun laws wiped out and for God sakes do not send a message from the House that everybody ought to pack a gun.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, a grandmother named Helen Foster was shot in the back in southwest Washington as she gathered children after she heard gunshots, recognizing that they might be in danger. She died at D.C. General Hospital. What happens when there are guns in the home in a city like this? What happens when there are no handgun laws in a city like this? Grandmothers get shot in the back trying to defend their children.

Let the District be the District. Go home and be what you want to be. Let my District be what it is.

NORTH KOREA: EXPERIENCE DICTATES CAUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, despite a number of highly contentious foreign policy issues that have been debated in this body in recent months, this Member continues to believe that American interests are best served by a bipartisan foreign policy. When the executive and legislative branches, furthermore, speak with one voice, the Nation is more likely to enjoy success in preserving its vital interests.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the Committee on International Relations, this Member has had the opportunity to focus closely on the Clinton administration's policy toward this important region. Frankly, the administration deserves credit on several fronts in its overall policy there, including its active support for democracy in Indonesia and a peaceful resolution to the festering situation that is East Timor, the successful renegotiation of the U.S.-Japan Security Guidelines, its commitment with Congress to maintain 100,000 U.S. military personnel in the Asian region, and the judgment to elevate the import of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

Genuine bipartisanship in Congress complementary to formulating a foreign policy, however, requires that Members of the Congress speak out when serious foreign policy failings by this or any other administration are detected. It is in this context that this Member expresses deepening concerns over the Clinton administration's continued lack of a coherent, comprehensive strategy towards Pyongyang, toward North Korea. This situation presents a grave challenge to vital U.S. national security interests.

In recent weeks, two important U.S. missions have traveled to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, that is, North Korea. The first mission was that of former Secretary of Defense William Perry who has been tasked by the President to complete a congressionally mandated, comprehensive review of U.S. policy regarding the problems of the Korean Peninsula. Dr. Perry is an outstanding public servant, extraordinarily well qualified to undertake this important assignment. In large part because of his reputation, his qualifications and the high bipartisan respect he has here on Capitol Hill, expectations are very high that he will be successful in engaging Pyongyang and presenting them with a clear choice of another track for its relationship with the United States, the Republic of Korea—that is South Korea—and our allies in the region.

The second mission involved the inspection of the suspected underground nuclear facility at Kumchang-ni, North Korea. That country, my colleagues will remember, agreed to abandon its

nuclear aspirations in return for the construction of two light-water reactors for power generation through the U.S.-led international consortium called the Korean Energy Development Organization, or KEDO. If it is learned that the DPRK has a secret nuclear program, this, of course, would completely undermine the credibility of the Clinton administration's policy of constructive engagement and would end KEDO.

If these missions proved satisfactory in their results, it was hoped that the Clinton administration would begin to lay a solid foundation for eliminating or at least dramatically reducing hostilities and ultimately for wholly transforming the relationship between North Korea and the United States and our regional allies. Working towards this objective certainly is a laudable and desirable goal if North Korea truly does wish to break from its history of brinksmanship and blackmail. Regrettably, this Member does not find the results of the administration's missions to be wholly reassuring, particularly when viewed against the backdrop of North Korean provocations. Of course, despite the completion of the Kumchang-ni inspection to determine if Pyongyang is covertly continuing its nuclear development program at other locations in violation of the agreed framework, we really do not have evidence that they have stopped.

Certainly, former Secretary Perry effectively delivered a strong message to the upper echelons of North Korean leadership, and the American inspection team performed its mission very well. While applauding these efforts, this body nevertheless must urge careful scrutiny of both the results and the administration's impending policy proposal.

There is an old adage that says "actions speak louder than words." With Pyongyang, actions shout louder than words. So, indeed, this Member is troubled by the provocative language and the actions of the North Korean leadership both during and after the Kumchang-ni inspection and Secretary Perry's visit. Not much time has passed since Dr. Perry's visit but Pyongyang's behavior thus far shows no real evidence of an interest in confidence-building measures or tension reduction. Rather, its behavior rings of persistent hostility, and appears to be inconsistent with defusing tensions, advancing regional security, and improving relations.

Here are just a few examples. First, the media has been reporting widely that Pyongyang will test fire the Taepo Dong II ballistic missile in July or August. If these reports are accurate, the growing capability of North Korea's missile development program, including an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the continental United States, cannot be overstated. North Korea, perhaps the most volatile and unstable regime on earth, is fast acquiring the ability to strike

the continental United States with weapons of mass destruction.

Press reports indicate that talks between North Korean officials and Dr. Perry on halting the ballistic missile program and sales, a key requirement outlined by Dr. Perry as he prepared for his visit, apparently ended with the same North Korean attempts at extortion that the U.S. has received at earlier meetings. The North demanded a large direct cash payment to terminate the program. True to form, the DPRK behaves as the modern equivalent of the Barbary pirates, extorting tribute in return for barely tolerable behavior.

It is also important to note that during Dr. Perry's visit, the North Korean press condemned the U.S. with the most contemptuous invective—and also vitriolically denounced South Korea and Japan—on issues ranging from a supposed U.S. master attack plan, an alleged U.S. dress rehearsal for an attack on the DPRK being staged in the Balkans, and a condemnation of Western economic policies that must be prevented from so-called poisoning their society. Pyongyang further lambasted Seoul's "sunshine policy"—South Korean President Kim Dae Jung's policy of engagement with the North—as a blatant attempt to absorb North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, this Member also would note that the mid-June, North Korea-South Korea naval stand-off in the Yellow Sea escalated to an armed confrontation, reportedly provoked by North Korean ships that violated the demarcation line. Pyongyang subsequently threatened to cancel long-postponed talks with the South, and agreed to sit down only after a final shipment of humanitarian aid arrived in North Korea. This was the last shipment of \$50 million in fertilizer aid that Seoul had agreed to provide in exchange for these talks.

The potential challenges for the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific region posed by recent North Korean activities highlight the need to remain very wary of the North's intentions and actions, despite the initial results of the Kumchang-ni expeditious withdraw and its Perry missions. In some ways, the results of these missions raise more questions and concerns than they answered. For example, it is no real surprise that the inspection team found no evidence linking the underground site at Kumchang-ni to North Korea's nuclear weapons program. If this evidence had existed, it is obvious that the United States never would have been permitted to inspect that facility.

In addition, this Member's concern about the possibility of a covert North Korean nuclear development program are exacerbated by press reports that the North is not cooperating sufficiently with the IAEA regarding reactor parts that are missing from Yongbyon, a subject which is covered by the Framework Agreement. More worrisome, however, are reports that Pyongyang has been trying to obtain items related to uranium enrichment. This material would help North Korea develop nuclear weapons without violating the Framework Agreement. Lastly, accentuating this list of concerns is the genuine difficulty we have in monitoring North Korean activities in that, the most closed society on earth.

Mr. Speaker, North Korea's continuing provocations demonstrate how important it is

for the administration to clearly and, I emphasize, expeditiously lay out for Congress its policy proposal for North Korea. North Korea's behavior certainly seems to reflect a leadership that still has little intention of working constructively with the U.S. and our regional allies. North Korea's leadership appears to remain committed to its policy of orchestrating crises as a means of extorting financial and humanitarian assistance. If this is the case, forthcoming Clinton administration policy proposals that derive principally from the perceptions of the inspection team and Dr. Perry in may leave unanswered the particularly thorny policy question of how to deal with a truculent, mercurial, and menacing North Korea—one that continues to use posturing and threats to extract resources and other concessions while offering nothing meaningful in return.

Mr. Speaker, relations with North Korea are highly problematic and precarious. A policy failure on our part for the Korean Peninsula would put tens of thousands of American troops and the South Korean people at risk. Misjudging our adversary could result in virtually any Americans on the continent being vulnerable to North Korean ballistic missile attack. The administration has a responsibility to extensively and routinely consult with Congress, particularly on a threat of this magnitude, and this body has both the responsibility and right to act as a partner in the formulation of North Korean policy. This body should have further dialog with, and a road map from, the Clinton administration that clearly outlines the benefits that would be extended to Pyongyang for working in earnest with the United States, the conditions that the North must meet to obtain these benefits, and the potential consequences of remaining intractable. We also should work to ensure that any administration plan is backed by both United States willingness and capability to undertake the tough measures to bolster our national security that North Korea appears to understand.

□ 1830

Pyongyang subsequently threatened to cancel the long postponed talks with the south. That is not a good start to a more constructive path.

I urge my colleagues to watch this issue very carefully and to work with the administration, demanding a full report on progress on the Dr. Perry mission.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MIDDLETON H. LAMBRIGHT, JR., OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 14, 1999, the Eleventh Congressional District and the Nation lost a medical pioneer and giant, Dr. Middleton H. Lambright, Jr., who was born in 1908, at the dawn of the 20th century, in Kansas City, Missouri. His father, Middleton Sr., was not only a medical doctor, but was a man of vision and hope for his children. Seeking greater opportunities for his son and daughter, Dr. Lambright moved to

Cleveland, Ohio, at the end of World War I, when Middleton H. Lambright, Jr., was 12 years old.

Young Middleton was also interested in medicine. From the time he was very small his father had permitted him to ride with him when he made house calls, visit the hospital and spend time in his office browsing through medical literature. Very early in his life, Middleton was given the opportunity to understand the meaning of success, duty, and commitment. His father was his example of an educated, successful black man fulfilling his dream of giving service to others through his medical practice.

The son wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. Middie, as he was nicknamed, graduated from Glenville High School of the Cleveland Public Schools. He attend two prestigious historically black universities, Morehouse College and Lincoln University, before completing requirements at the Western Reserve University.

In 1934, he entered Meharry Medical College. During his 4 years there, he became interested in the field of surgery and whenever possible spent time in the emergency traumatic service, on the wards, and in operating rooms. He was privileged to have professors and lifetime friends, several famous surgeons: Dr. John Hale, Matthew Walker, and Joseph L.B. Forrester.

After graduating in 1938, he sought and was successful in an effort to receive an internship at Cleveland City Hospital. Following his surgical residency, he was appointed assistant clinical professor of surgery in the Department of Medicine at Western Reserve School of Medicine. This position entitled him to hospital privileges at University Hospitals and Mt. Sinai Hospital.

He became the first black physician to receive a full staff appointment in any hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. He continued to fill his dreams by moving into the office with his father where he built a general and thoracic surgical practice while continuing as a visiting surgeon at University Hospitals. In ensuing years, he became involved in numerous activities, was elected President of the American Academy of Medicine in Cleveland in 1964. He became only the second African-American to head a local affiliate of the American Medical Association. He also worked with his father to found Forest City Hospital which enabled other African-American doctors to head up medical departments throughout the hospital.

He believed in taking chances and seeking new opportunities. In 1971, he was offered and accepted a position as Dean and Associate Professor of Surgery in the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. He was quoted as saying: My father would have been extremely pleased to know that his son had been invited to join the staff and faculty of an institution he could not have hoped to enter in any capacity. He was speaking to

the racial segregation in the State of South Carolina.

After more than 25 years of practice, Dr. Lambright returned to Cleveland and entered his third career as the vice president of medical affairs for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Here was a man who had a dream and who had his materialized and then had been granted the opportunity to expand the use of his success in many avenues. He believed that a man so blessed had a duty to his fellow man.

Dr. Lambright might well have been guided by the words of Thomas Paine: The duty of man is plain and simple and consists of but two points, his duty to God, which every man must fill, and with respect to his neighbor, to do as he would be done by.

His list of medical staff appointments would equal the list of several physicians combined, and included there is appointments to numerous hospitals in the city of Cleveland. He shared his knowledge and experience with young students eager to join his honored profession, serving as an instructor and clinical assistant professor at Case Western Reserve.

Involved in numerous community activities, he was a trustee, grand jury foreman, a trustee of the American Red Cross. Here indeed was a man who dared to dream, who lived his dreams, and shared his vision. Anthropologist Margaret Mead "measured success in terms of the contributions that an individual makes to his or her human beings." Booker T. Washington said "success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." By either measure, Dr. Middleton H. Lambright, Jr., was a successful man.

On behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I express gratitude to this outstanding citizen of Ohio for his life and service and extend my condolences to his family and friends.

[From the Plain Dealer, June 19, 1999]

DR. MIDDLETON LAMBRIGHT, OVERCAME
RACIAL BARRIERS

(By Richard M. Peery)

EUCLID—Dr. Middleton H. "Middie" Lambright Jr. was a pioneer who broke barriers of racial discrimination throughout his career.

He was the first black doctor to attain full hospital privileges in Cleveland when he was admitted to the staffs of University and Mt. Sinai hospitals.

He worked with his father to found Forest City Hospital, enabling black doctors to head medical departments.

He was the second in the nation to head a local affiliate of the American Medical Association when he became president of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine in 1964.

When he left Cleveland in 1972 to become assistant dean of the Medical College of South Carolina, he was welcomed to the state by Sen. Strom Thurmond, who had been one of the leading defenders of racial segregation in the nation.

Dr. Lambright returned to Cleveland in 1984 to serve as a vice president of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Ohio. He retired four years later.

Dr. Lambright died Monday at his home in Euclid. He was 90.

He was born in Kansas City, Mo. When he was 12, his father moved the family to Cleveland so his children would not be subjected to segregated education. Dr. Lambright graduated from Glenville High School.

He attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, but his graduation was delayed while he recovered from tuberculosis. He eventually received a degree from Western Reserve University in 1934. He decided to specialize in surgery while he was a student at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., where he graduated in 1938.

Dr. Lambright completed his internship at City Hospital, now MetroHealth Medical Center, and was serving a surgical residency there when World War II broke out. Although fellow residents joined the Lakeside Medical Unit that served under Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the Pacific, Dr. Lambright was not allowed to go with them because of the racial segregation in the military. Because the Army's only black medical training unit was full, he remained at City Hospital throughout the war.

Dr. Lambright became an assistant professor of surgery at Case Western Reserve University and chief of surgery at Forest City Hospital. He was medical adviser for The Plain Dealer Golden Gloves tournaments and medical director for the Cleveland Boxing and Wrestling Commission.

In addition to his memberships in numerous professional organizations, Dr. Lambright found time for civic activities. He served on the original trustee board for Cleveland State University. He was also a trustee of several local organizations, including the Automobile Association, Growth Association, United Appeal, American Cancer Society, Red Cross, Welfare Federation, Urban League, Cedar YMCA and Barons Hockey Club.

He was appointed Cuyahoga County grand jury foreman in 1965.

After he returned to Cleveland from South Carolina, he was a trustee of the Cleveland Scholarship Program.

He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Dr. Lambright is survived by his wife, Willie Callahan Lambright of Greensboro, N.C.; a sister, Elizabeth B. of Euclid; and a granddaughter, Lodi of Providence, R.I.

Services will be a 11 a.m. June 26 at the Mausoleum of Lake View Cemetery, 12316 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.

Arrangements are by the E.F. Boyd & Son Funeral Home of Cleveland.

Memorial donations may be made to the CWRU/Forest City Hospital Endowment Fund, Bolton School of Nursing, 10900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44106-4904; or to Meharry Medical College, Division of Institutional Advancement, 1005 D.B. Blvd., Nashville, Tenn. 37208.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSITION TO TEACHING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROEMER. It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that as education goes, so

goes America. Whether we are talking to a labor union in South Bend, Indiana, or a small business in Elkhart, Indiana, and with an unemployment rate of about 3 percent, everybody is saying the same thing across our State, that we need to work together in the United States Congress to improve education, not just simply improve it, but to creatively and boldly improve education for every single one of our Nation's children.

Now the new Democrat coalition, which I helped start and found, has taken the approach that we need to do a host of creative and bold new things. Certainly we all agree that parental involvement and community concern is the Number one issue, and in addition to that we need more charter schools and public school choice. This was a bill that I wrote and drafted with new Democrat help and with the help of Mr. Riggs from California, and we passed this bill in 1997. This is a bipartisan bill to provide more public choice for all our Nation's children and parents.

Secondly, we need more teachers, not just more of them, but better quality of teachers to compliment and supplement the number of teachers that are working so hard in America today, and my good friend from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) and I have introduced a bill called Transition to Teaching Act that will boldly improve on the Troops to Teachers bill to try to build relationships with the private companies and foundations to help transition people from their first career, as maybe a businessman or a businesswoman, somebody in science, somebody as a police officer or a fireman, and transition them into a second career of teaching. This is a dream for many people when they are in their 40s or 50s or 60s, to enter the teaching profession, and my colleague from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) and I will introduce this bill on Thursday, the Transition to Teaching Act.

Thirdly, we need technology. The E-rate, which I would say the E stands for equality or education, the E-rate needs to make sure that we win the battle of connecting up our schools and libraries to this exciting new technology of the Internet. It is not the answer, the panacea, to all our Nation's questions of research, but it does provide us some interesting opportunities for helping with new curriculum, helping develop role models for new teachers, helping share information from one classroom to another. The E-rate is the battle of the new century to make sure that all of our Nation's children in the inner city, in the rural communities which I represent in Indiana, that they all have access to get to this technology and that our teachers, that our teachers are equipped with the sufficient skills to learn this and teach it and convey it to our children.

Fourthly, when we just succeeded on this, and I worked closely with my good friend from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), a Republican, on the education flexibility bill, we will give our local

communities additional waivers from Federal and State regulations if they attach more success to that student, that student that gets better scores and graduates from year to year and out of high school into college.

That education flexibility is directly tied to the success of the student and not to more and more red tape, regulations, and requirements. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to do more. We need to look at bolder and newer and more creative ideas, teacher academies set up with our universities and colleges. We need to look at preschool initiatives when we are hearing that our children are learning more and more at earlier and earlier ages and they are capable of more and more.

We need to look at helping provide the resources to our local communities to stop social promotion. It does not do our children any good to be promoted from grade to grade to grade when they cannot provide, they cannot read, they cannot provide themselves with the opportunity to learn more about geography and math and science.

So, Mr. Speaker, as paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln in conclusion, Abraham Lincoln talked about making sure that we all have the opportunities not to guarantee that we will all finish the race of life at the same time. No, nobody can guarantee that, but at least we get the opportunity for an equal start in life, and that comes back to education.

Let us work together across the aisle, Democrat and Republican, for creative bold new reforms in education as the new Democratic coalition has sought to do.

WHAT WE WOULD BE DOING BY AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION TO MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO DESECRATE THE AMERICAN FLAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we have on our schedule the debate and the vote on a constitutional amendment, the amendment that would make the desecration of the flag illegal. Many who support this amendment imply that those of us who oppose it for some reason might be unpatriotic. That, of course, is not true.

I would like to call attention to my fellow colleagues just exactly what I see us doing by amending the Constitution.

The very first thing that Communist China did after it took over Hong Kong was to pass legislation to make sure that it was illegal to desecrate the Chinese flag. Now let me say that one time again. As soon as Red China took over Hong Kong, that was the very first thing they did. One of the first pieces of legislation was to make sure that the people of Hong Kong knew it was illegal to do anything to desecrate the Chinese flag.

Now another interesting thing about the Chinese and their flag is that we monitor human rights in China. As a matter of fact, the State Department is required to come before the House and the Senate and report to us about the violations of human rights in China. The purpose is to find out whether or not they qualify for full trade with us, and the argument comes up every year. Some say, well, they violate civil rights and human rights all the time; therefore, we should not be trading with Red China, which is an argument that can be presented.

But in this report that came out in April to summarize last year, our government lists as a violation of human rights that we are holding them accountable for that we want to use against them so that we do not trade with them is the fact that two individuals last year were arrested because they desecrated the Communist Chinese flag.

□ 1845

I think that is pretty important. We should think about that. First, the Chinese Government makes it illegal to desecrate a flag in Hong Kong, and then they arrest somebody and they convict them, and they want to hold it against them and say we do not want to give them Most Favored Nation status because they are violating somebody's human rights.

Mr. Speaker, my point is obviously that why do we want to emulate them? There are other countries around the world that have similar laws: Iraq, Cuba, Haiti, Sudan; they all have laws against desecration of the flag. But in this country we have not had this. We have never put it in the Constitution. This debate would dumbfound our Founders to think that we were contemplating such an amendment to the Constitution.

We have existed now for 212 years since the passage of our Constitution, and we have not had laws like this, but all of a sudden we feel compelled. What is the compulsion? Do we see on the nightly news Americans defying our flag and defying our principles of liberty? I cannot recall the last time I saw on television an American citizen burning an American flag or desecrating our flag. So all of a sudden now we decide it is a crisis of such magnitude that we have to amend the Constitution; at the same time, challenging the principles of freedom of expression.

There is one State in this country that has a law which they have the right to, a law against desecration of the flag. And the flag police went to a house to find out what was going on because they were flying their flag upside down. What is going to happen when we try to define "desecrate"? Desecrate is usually something held for religious symbol. Have we decided to take the flag and make it a holy symbol? But will a towel that is in the shape and the color of a flag that somebody is

lying on at the beach, is that going to be a reason to call the FBI and call the flag police in to arrest someone for this desecration? Because we do not define the desecration, we just say we will write the laws to police this type of activity.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks we have had many Members in this Congress cite the Constitution. As a matter of fact, the Constitution is cited all the time. Sometimes I see it inconsistently cited, because when it pleases one to cite the Constitution, they do; and when it does not, they forget about it. But just recently we have heard the citing of the Constitution quite frequently. In the impeachment hearings: We have to uphold the Constitution, we have to live by our traditions and our ideals. Just last week we were citing the Constitution endlessly over the second amendment which I strongly support, and which I said the same thing. We must uphold the Constitution to defend the second amendment. But all of a sudden here we have decided to change the Constitution that we are in some way going to restrict the freedom of expression.

We say, well, this is bad expression. This is ugly people. These are people that are saying unpopular things, and they are being obnoxious. But, Mr. Speaker, the first amendment and the freedom of expression was never put there for easygoing, nice, conventional, noncontroversial speech. There is no purpose to protect that. Nobody cares. The purpose of freedom of expression is to protect controversy, and if somebody is upset and annoyed, the best thing we can do with people like that is to ignore them. If we pass a constitutional amendment and people are so anti-American that they want to display their anti-Americanism, they will love it. They will get more attention because we will be sending in the Federal flag police to do something about it.

Some will argue the Constitution does not protect freedom of expression; it protects freedom of speech, and this is not speech, this is ugly expression. But the Constitution does, does protect freedom of expression. That is what speech is. What about religion? To express one's religious beliefs. What about one's property, the right to go in and express what one believes? That is what freedom is all about is the freedom of expression and belief. I do not see how this country can become greater by having an amendment written that is in some ways going to curtail the freedom of Americans to express themselves. We have not had it for 212 years, and here we are going to change it.

It is expected that this will be passed overwhelmingly, and in the Senate possibly as well, and then throughout the country, but I do not see this as a positive step. We here in the Congress should think seriously before we pass this amendment.

NEXT STEPS FOR REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we first need to go back to the American people and ask them to speak to their representatives. We will work with mothers, fathers, advocates, and I won't stop until 13 children don't die every day.

I will be at front lines as we figure out every strategy open to us to pass real gun violence legislation.

First, we will work with the House and Senate conferees on the Juvenile Justice bill.

Secondly, we don't yet have a date when the conference will be appointed. The Senate first decides to appoint their conferees.

The next big litmus test for the American public to watch is the Motion to Instruct the Conferees. That motion will consist of the House asking the Conference Committee appointees to keep the Senate language on the Gun Show Loophole Amendment.

We will attempt to attach the Gun Show Loophole language to the Treasury Postal bill and Commerce/State/Justice, which both oversee some gun laws. In addition, some of my colleagues have discussed attempting to attach the language to every appropriations bill, including this week's Transportation bill.

I still believe that we need freestanding gun legislation. That's why I will continue to ask that my bill—the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act—be given a hearing. We will work to include the bill—or pieces of it—in any gun violence legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GUN SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DeLauro) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week the House had the chance to do the right thing and pass common-sense gun safety legislation, that, in fact, the American people support overwhelmingly. But the House leadership chose instead to cave in to the wishes of the NRA, the National Rifle Association. It was outrageous. House leaders actually chose to respond to the tragedy at Littleton by trying to weaken gun safety laws.

Never before have I seen the will of the American people so totally ignored.

The House last week failed to take reasonable and needed action to reverse the tide of youth violence, but that will not and must not be the end of the story. The tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, claimed 15 lives and brought sharply into focus the crisis of youth violence afflicting our country.

When 13 children a day die from gunfire, we have a crisis that the Congress of the United States should respond to.

We know that there is no one solution to the challenge of youth violence. We need to encourage stronger relationships between parents and children. We need to make sure that schools have the resources that they need, resources to reduce class sizes so that students get individual attention, and that teachers can handle and keep a handle on their classes. We need resources for counselors and for mental health professionals, and we need to lessen the negative influence of violence in our media. All of these things we need to do.

But we cannot ignore the fact that angry and troubled youth exact the horrible price that we saw in Littleton only when they can get their hands on dangerous firearms. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold used firearms that were purchased at a gun show. T.J. Solomon shot his classmates in Conyers, Georgia, after taking guns without child safety locks from his parents' house. Sensible gun safety measures must be a part of a comprehensive approach to youth violence.

Our colleagues in the Senate did the right thing to respond to our country's crisis of youth violence. They passed limited, but needed, measures to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. The bill passed by the Senate would close the loophole that allows criminals to buy weapons at gun shows; close the loophole that allows importation of high-capacity ammunition clips, and require that child safety locks be provided when handguns are sold.

The measure passed the other body, by the other body are not radical, and they were passed in a bipartisan way. They will not take away anyone's guns. They will not keep any law-abiding citizens from buying a gun. They will simply put in place a few needed protections to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children.

This House should have passed these measures last week when we had the chance, but we did not. Why did the House refuse to take such a basic step as to close the gun show loophole? I heard a colleague of mine say that closing the loophole would create too much paperwork, that it would be an inconvenience. Imagine that. An inconvenience. Tell that to the parents of a murdered child. Tell them about paperwork. Tell them about the annoyance of waiting 3 days to buy a gun. Compare the hardship of waiting 3 days to buy a gun to the hardship of endless days of agony and mourning the loss of a murdered child.

This Congress should be ashamed for caring more about reducing paperwork than reducing gun violence.

I am disappointed that the House failed to take steps that we needed to last week, but that is not the end of the story. We are here tonight to make clear that we are determined to see

common-sense gun safety legislation passed. The American people deserve no less.

Many Members have strongly supported efforts to keep guns from falling into the wrong hands, and I applaud them for their efforts. Among those who have been the most committed to protecting children from gun violence have been the women in the House of Representatives, and that is not an accident. Women are in tune to the devastating effects that gun violence has on American families and have rightly lead the charge to improve gun safety. We will keep the pressure on House leaders to ensure that effective measures are taken to protect children from violence. House leaders should act quickly to negotiate a compromise that includes the Senate-passed gun safety measures. But if the House leaders once again fail to take a strong stand to keep guns from criminals and kids, then we will keep searching for opportunities to pass the legislation that is called for by the American people.

I call on my Republican colleagues to stand up for gun safety measures. Each time that Congress has passed legislation to keep criminals from getting their hands on weapons, it is because there has been bipartisan support. I am disappointed that a much smaller share of Republicans voted for real gun safety legislation last week than when the House passed the successful Brady law that has blocked hundreds of thousands of gun sales to criminals.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join other members of the Congressional Women's Caucus expressing our disappointment with the gun safety debate of last week. It distresses me both as a mother and as a former County Prosecutor and judge. With the increase in youth violence at schools across America and the countless instances of children killed in gun related accidents, I believe there is a need for increased gun safety.

Parents across America are more concerned about their children's safety after the Columbine incident. We send our children to school to get an education and improve their citizenship, not to be threatened by classmates.

I recognize the fact that legislation restricting the access children have to guns is not the only answer to this epidemic of cultural values. Parents must take a greater responsibility for ensuring children learn right from wrong and how to resolve their problems with others in a non-violent way. Violence should not be a child's first impulse when life does not go the way they expect.

I believe that a combination of greater parental involvement in children's lives coupled with tighter restrictions on access children have to deadly weapons is necessary. As a person matures they learn better control of their emotions, and how to deal with others.

Last week we tried to close the loophole exploited by several known criminals. Unfortunately that initiative was filled with amendments seeking to loosen, not tighten, restrictions on gun purchases. Because of the action taken to weaken the legislation I was unable to support it. I care about our children and families, that is why I took the action I did.

Gun shows have become a haven for criminals and underage gun purchasers as well as those collectors seeking to buy guns. The two young men who attacked their classmates at Columbine High School bought some of the weapons used in that tragedy through a gun show. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the two men convicted of bombing the Oklahoma Federal Building, financed their attack through illegal sales at gun shows.

I do not favor closing gun shows. Rather, I think we need to restrict a person's ability to go to a gun show and avoid the background checks on their purchase. A background check is not an assault on a person's Second Amendment rights. We seek to protect innocent people from the risk of gun violence by criminals and children. The law is clear and right, if you do not pass a background check you cannot legally own a gun.

An issue raised by gun advocates about background checks was the waiting period. The fact is that the majority of safety checks takes no more than a few hours. About 70 percent of these checks goes through immediately. Law enforcement is concerned about those checks that require more time, the minority of background checks. By limiting the time law enforcement has to check a person's record we allow people who are not supposed to own guns to actually buy weapons.

I do not want to prevent law-abiding citizens from seeking a weapon legally for protection, sport, or personal collection from buying a gun. Had we passed the legislation including the amendment offered by Representative DINGELL there would have been 17,000 people allowed to purchase guns who would not have been able to under current law.

I support maintaining the Brady Law background checks in order to prevent criminals and children from buying guns. It is safe to say that those who do not have access to guns and have the will to strike out against others cannot shoot another person. We need to keep it that way.

I am a mother and like all mothers I worry about my son's safety. He should not be at risk from friends who could buy a gun through the loophole in the gun show law. I support true and meaningful gun safety legislation, not taking guns away from law-abiding citizens.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let us protect our children. Gun violence is not a partisan issue. American children deserve no less.

H.R. 659: PROTECTING AMERICA'S TREASURES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon we passed a bill regarding the Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields and the visitors' center at Valley Forge. I had planned to do a 5-minute this afternoon where I touched on some of the points in my comments regarding that bill, regarding a dispute that has arisen in the development regarding Gettysburg National Historical Park.

This past weekend, my son Zachary, who is in fifth grade, was here with the Deer Ridge Elementary School, and

among other things they went to Annetiam, and on my way back to Indiana I joined them and then went on up to Gettysburg. We had a 3-hour hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks at Gettysburg that I sat through and found the debate fascinating. Partly it is the struggles between a community that does not want to see the visitors' center moved away from where many of the retail attractions are and the National Park Service.

I came away from that, A, not fully understanding the community's opposition. While I understood some concern if the visitors' center moves a half mile, in fact as a former retailer, and actually still own and lease out our retail businesses, it looks to me like this would be a huge advantage to every retailer in the town of Gettysburg, because the increased length of stay, the repeat visits, the more things to see and do will lead to more dollars being spent in the community.

But beyond that, this is a national area, and it raises a number of questions that we have to sort through specifically on Gettysburg, which I hope will move ahead rapidly. This report was just released last week on the final general management plan, and I hope we can proceed. It has been held up for some time, and they have gone through all the procedures, but we need to get going on this. Also, some national debates, the differences between a historical park and a National Park.

For example, this is not a wilderness area. One of the things, when we look at the basic purpose of a historical park is that it should look like it did at the time of the historic event, or at least have the feel of that historic event, and one of the problems that we have on some of our battlefields is, quite frankly, they are overgrown.

One of the points that they make in this report on page 44 is that the peach orchard, which was a very critical point in the second day of the battle at Gettysburg, that it is now fashioned for fruit production, and then it does not look like the current peach orchard.

□ 1900

So we look and say, how could the soldiers have used that as any type of shield as the Confederate Army moved towards the Union line?

Furthermore, the woods from McPherson Ridge, now the woods are overgrown, choked with growth, and we cannot experience the battlefield because we cannot visualize how the troops are moving. In many areas there are woods where there should not be, or farms that have been taken out so one cannot see what it was like for the soldiers to go through.

One of the important parts of the experience is to see what it was like at the time the battle was fought. The National Cemetery movement took place, of which Edward Everett and President Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg. When we had the National Cemetery movement those were places of contemplation, where we reflect what happens when people die in battles. But

the National Park itself should have the historic integrity of the battlefield. That is one of the key parts of this plan.

Part of that is when we go, and currently at Gettysburg the visitors center sits at a key point in the fishhook of the Union line. So when we try to get a feeling of the battle, there sits the visitors center, there sits a modernist-looking building, which is a very architecturally significant building but nevertheless modern, that has a cyclorama in it, not to mention this huge tower going up. We cannot possibly get a feel for what it looked like to General Pickett coming up the hill or on Little Roundtop as you are looking down on the battlefield when you have this huge tower sticking up, and the visitors center and the cyclorama right in the heart where the battle was.

The proposal would move the visitors center and the cyclorama over toward an area where the fighting did not occur. There was fighting to the east of it and fighting to the west of it, but it would be out of the center of the battlefield so we could appreciate it more.

Furthermore, the visitors center has numerous purposes, one of which is interpretation. They need more space. Gettysburg is arguably, certainly in the Civil War, the case could be made it was the most significant battle.

In addition, they have storage and display problems of artifacts and archives which are now in a non-air conditioned area. We pay sometimes hundreds of thousands or more to restore guns, or in fact have withheld restoring these because they are not in air conditioning, not in a place where you would put minor or let alone major artifacts, which we have from both armies in the Gettysburg battle.

Furthermore, support services. There has been a big dispute. The restaurant and gift shop proposals have been scaled back, but one of the fundamental questions here is where do revenues come from and how are we going to fund these parks. I think this is a good plan. I hope this Congress will support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GUN SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, last month the United States Senate courageously passed the juvenile justice bill that would begin to close loopholes that too often have resulted in guns getting into the wrong hands.

I am very deeply disappointed that this House was unable to demonstrate similar courage last week. Instead of standing up for what is right, sensible, and what the American people want, the leadership of this House pandered to the narrow interests of the gun lobby and did not even give us the opportunity to vote on the bill passed in our Senate. Instead, they presented us with two separate bills designed to kill gun safety measures in this House.

The American people deserve a better Congress than that. They deserve a Congress that places more importance on human life, more importance on our children's sense of safety in their classroom, and on the parents' peace of mind, instead of pandering to the fringe interests of the gun lobby.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this House barely more than 6 months. When I came here my mission was to serve my district and the American people and to do everything within my power to ensure their safety. Our Constitution and the Congress' primary focus has always included the protection of our citizens safety. Last week's vote betrayed that intent, and even worse, was a great disservice to the American people.

Several Members on the other side of the debate raised concerns about upholding the Constitution's Second Amendment, the right to bear arms. Of course I and others support upholding the Constitution. However, I totally disagree with those who contend that requiring a 3-day background check on firearms buyers at gun shows or that requiring child safety locks on all gun sales is an infringement on peoples second amendment rights. What a bunch of horsefeathers. These modest gun safety measures do not prevent responsible citizens from owning guns. They simply ensure that guns do not end up in the hands of criminals likely to purchase them without adequate background checks and then misuse them.

Let us look at the known facts. In the 5 years the Brady bill has been in operation, that is the one that requires the 3-business-day waiting period for gun purchase, more than 400,000 illegal gun sales, two-thirds of which involve either convicted felons or people with a current felony indictment, were blocked. This is clear evidence that this law works and we are on the right path.

However, we still have much work to do. Vice President GORE recently told the U.S. Conference of Mayors in New Orleans that a new government study show that about two-thirds of all homicides involve the use of a handgun. Also, consider that domestic violence

often turns into homicide in many instances where guns are readily available, and that law enforcement officials support gun safety because it saves police officers' lives.

It is no wonder that a recent Pew Research survey found that 65 percent of this Nation believes gun control is more important than the right to bear arms. This battle for sensible gun control is not over. Those of us who believe in closing gun loopholes will continue to fight to tighten our laws and ask for their enforcement.

Two months ago I spoke to hundreds of members of families and friends of murdered victims assembled in Rose Hills Memorial Park to honor their slain loved ones during victims' rights week. I pledged to them that I would work to ensure that we establish laws and programs that will prevent the additional loss of innocent lives, and to strengthen victims' rights.

I intend to keep that pledge. I intend to serve the American people and not special interests. I also intend to uphold the Constitution. Therefore, I proudly pledge to continue to fight and support reasonable gun safety legislation on behalf of America's children and our families.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2084, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-196) on the resolution (H. Res. 218) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2084) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S TEACHER SHORTAGE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we are about to have a major problem on our hands in this country. We have more and more children entering in our schools than we have seen in a generation. At the same time, we face a massive retirement as more and more of our teachers begin to reach retirement age.

In fact, we are going to need over 2 million new teachers over the next decade. In my home, Florida, a growth

State, we are going to need over 7,000 teachers just in Hillsborough County, one county that I represent.

Fixing our education system is like a three-legged stool. We have to modernize our schools, we have to build them the right size the first time, we need to reduce class size, especially in the early grades, so we can return control of the classroom back to the teachers, and we need to begin preparing to replenish the ranks of our teaching profession with the very best and brightest we can find.

Along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) who spoke earlier this evening, I will be introducing legislation on Thursday that offers one approach to attract more qualified people into our teaching profession. Our bill is referred to as the Transition to Teaching Act. It is modeled after the very successful Troops to Teachers law in this country which has resulted in more than 3,000 retired members of the military choosing to become math, science, and technology teachers since 1974. More than 270 of these men and women alone are now teaching in Florida schools.

The Transition to Teaching Act expands the Troops to Teachers program so that any midlife career professional can consider making a change in the teaching profession, and like the Troops to Teachers program, will qualify for up to a \$5,000 grant or stipend to cover the cost of returning to a college or university to complete the coursework necessary to be trained as a teacher and certified as a teacher in the State where they choose to go.

In exchange for that training, we and the taxpayers of our country will expect at least 3 years of teaching, and we have targeted our bill towards those schools that have the highest percentage of students from an impoverished family where we face the greatest challenge in attracting teachers. We will expect the recipients of this grant to spend up to 3 years teaching in one of these schools, to help begin to fill the ranks of our dwindling number of teachers.

Yesterday in my home, Tampa, I met with three highly qualified individuals who formerly served in our military and are using those life experiences to be very successful teachers, Ronald Dyches, Al Greenway, and Karen Billingsley.

Ronald Dyches told me it had always been his dream to be a teacher. When it came time to retire from the military, the Troops to Teachers program was there to help cover some of the costs to pay the bills of going back to school before he could begin to earn a salary as a teacher. He told me it was always his dream to be a teacher, and that grant helped him realize his dream. Now he is doing a terrific job. As a matter of fact, as a veteran he helped design a course on the history of the Vietnam War that is not only being used in his high school, it is being used in other high schools in the

Hillsborough County area. He is simply one example of some of the very talented and mature people who have worked in other professions, who can be brought into our schools.

Our bill can help move people from the boardroom to the classroom, from the firehouse to the schoolhouse, from the police station on Main Street to the school on Main Street.

Let us work together to bring more qualified people into our teaching profession. Let us reach out to people who might consider realizing their dream and making that change to a second career in teaching. Let us get together and pass this legislation, and begin to deal with the need to have quality teachers as more and more students are in our schools.

GUN CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it was pretty outrageous last week that the Republican leadership had the nerve to offer a watered-down version of the Senate gun safety legislation. It was clear to all that watched and listened that 80 percent of the Republicans were willing to wait until there is more blood on our hands before passing real gun control legislation, legislation that would make it harder for kids to get guns.

But thankfully, 80 percent of the Democrats and 20 percent of the Republicans know that our children should be worrying about hitting their books, not about getting hit by a bullet. They know that our children should see Gunsmoke as an old TV rerun, and not a reality in their daily lives. And they know that our children must be safe in their schools, their neighborhoods, and their homes.

Increased gun safety measures will save the lives of thousands of young people every year. Regardless of our political agendas, we have to put our children first.

Fortunately, last week good sense prevailed and the legislation that would not close the gaping loopholes in our gun laws and would not make our children any safer failed. Mr. Speaker, now we have another opportunity, an opportunity to consider meaningful anti-violence legislation, rather than legislation that sounds helpful but rings hollow. We need commonsense anti-violence legislation, and we need to now.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, some of the most effective programs that we should and could be considering would begin at the preschool level. We know that the early years of a child's life are pivotal in determining their personality, determining their values and their conscience. So we must stop Band-Aid approaches that put guns in the hands of youth and put criminals behind bars after the fact.

Instead, we must do some real crimefighting at the source through effective prevention programs. In other words, let us not do what we have been doing with the staggering amount of money and a staggering lack of success. Let us not lock up people behind bars, never mind where they bought their gun.

□ 1915

Never mind where they bought their gun or never mind what made them so crazy in the first place because today's kids are trying to be older faster, and they do not know how to do it, and they should not have to do it. A lot of them come from homes with only one parent, and a lot of them live in poverty.

Unfortunately, the clear connection between poverty and antisocial behavior continues to be an afterthought. We think we can stumble our way to make sense of security by some puny legislation, by putting people behind iron bars instead of protecting them and preventing them from being in trouble in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, we must address the problem of youth violence in terms of prevention and in terms of effective punishment. We should be implementing solutions based upon what research, what judgments, and what other practitioners have indicated about what is needed to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency.

That is why we must step forward with real solutions. Following the good sense of 80 percent of the House Democrats and 20 percent of the House Republicans, we can strengthen gun control laws, and we can invest in prevention programs so our children will not result in violence to settle their problems.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VITTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IOM REPORT ON SILICONE BREAST IMPLANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Institute of Medicine released its report on silicone breast implant research. It evaluated past studies on the association between silicone implants and diseases as well as considering the frequency of complications including rupture, the need for additional surgeries, and problems with contraction.

Perhaps the Institute of Medicine's most important directive was to recommend areas of future research concerning silicone breast implants.

The IOM, the Institute of Medicine, report points to the undeniable need

for additional scientific research on the long-term outcomes and local complications of silicone breast implants. In fact, the report states these complications occur frequently enough to be a cause for concern and to justify the conclusion that they are the primary safety issue with silicone breast implants.

Although the rate of implant rupture and silicone leakage has not been definitively established, a recent analysis of implant failure conducted by the University of Florida found silicone breast implant rupture at a rate of 30 percent at 5 years, 50 percent at 10 years, and 70 percent at 17 years.

However, in information sent to women considering implants, manufacturers currently are grossly underestimating the rupture rate at 1 percent.

The Institute of Medicine, the IOM, also concluded that the information concerning the nature and relatively high frequency of local complications and reoperations is an essential element of adequate informed consent for women undergoing breast implantation.

Therefore, the IOM recommends the development of national model of informed consent of women undergoing breast implantation to ensure women fully understand the risks associated with silicone implants.

Women have the right to choose to get breast implants, but Congress has the responsibility to make sure that they are fully aware of the risks associated with these products.

For these reasons, I, along with the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and nearly 45 cosponsors have introduced H.R. 1323, the Silicone Breast Implant Research and Information Act.

This bill promotes independent research at NIH in order to ensure impartial, scientifically sound studies on silicone breast implants. To date, there have been no National Institutes of Health, NIH, clinical studies of mastectomy patients who have had implants.

With the level of attention and controversy on this issue, supporters of H.R. 1323 believe leadership from NIH is critically important.

Our legislation would also require the FDA to strengthen informed consent procedures in clinical trials and institute better follow-up mechanisms for consumer complaints. Because the FDA has never approved silicone breast implants for the market, it is crucial that women and their doctors have access to accurate information concerning the possible risks.

Finally, the Institute of Medicine, the IOM, recommends additional research to determine safe levels of silicone in the human body. Everyone has some level of silicone in their body. However, there has never been any research to establish a safe level of silicone. How can scientists be expected to determine whether silicone is causing diseases if we do not know what is the safe level?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to look at H.R. 1323.

JUVENILE DIABETES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to call to the attention of my colleagues and the House to the urgent problem of juvenile diabetes.

Today, I was visited in my office by one of my 9-year-old constituents, Ruth Hendren of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ruth came to Washington with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to lobby Congress to provide needed funds for diabetes research.

We in Congress are used to being lobbied all of the time by high-priced hired guns and other big-time lobbyists who represent any number of special interests in this body.

But when one looks into the eyes of a child, whose daily battle with this terrible disease is truly the embodiment of bravery, one cannot help but be moved.

Diabetes is a chronic, debilitating disease that affects every organ system, every age group, both genders, and all ethnic minorities.

Sixteen million people suffer from diabetes. Eight hundred thousand Americans and children will be diagnosed this year alone. Victims of diabetes, of juvenile diabetes, must endure as many as six injections of insulin a day and eight finger-prick blood glucose tests every day. It would be tough for an adult to do that, but it is especially tough to see a child.

We in Congress need to do what is right on behalf of the victims of juvenile diabetes in every congressional district in the country.

Diabetes is a disease in search of a cure, a problem in search of a solution. Medical research has brought us close to the cure of diabetes.

I call on my colleagues to step up to the plate and support increased funding for the National Institute of Health for diabetes research.

On behalf of Ruth and all of America's victims of diabetes and their families, I trust that Congress will do it this year.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Speaker, while I am talking on this issue of education and funding, it is important that I cover an issue that is also very important for this Congress to deal with, and that is school construction. It is an urgent problem all across this country.

I want to thank my colleagues in the New Democratic Coalition for their leadership and help in this issue of school construction.

As a former State superintendent of schools in North Carolina, I have been working to help pass a school construction bill since I arrived in this Congress in 1997.

The statistics tell the tale. Today, there are nearly 53 million students in schools in America, more than at any time in our Nation's history. Schools are busting at the seams.

Children find themselves in trailers, gyms, closets, bathrooms, and other make-shift classrooms and gyms and on stages.

Substandard learning environments are unacceptable. We want higher standards for our children in academics and places for our teachers to teach.

If we are to succeed in the next generation and the new millennium, our children must have world-class education; and to have that, we must have quality facilities.

In my district alone, we have places that have grown almost a third since 1990. Wake County, our capital county, will add about 3,500 to 4,500 new students to enrollment rolls every year. That is 3,500 to 4,500 students every year.

The crisis is getting worse. What kind of example do we set for our children when we neglect their schools? Over the next 10 years, more than 1.5 million more public school children will show up at the schoolhouse door. In North Carolina alone, our high schools are projected to grow by 21.4 percent over the next 10 years; and that will be third in growth in the United States.

I have introduced a school bill, School Construction Act, that will provide \$7.2 billion in school construction bonds across the United States for our fastest growing school districts.

I am working with the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the administration, and I will work with anyone else who wants to work to make sure that we have school funds for our children.

Our legislation uses Federal resources to leverage more local financing for schools. This does not take place with local money. It leverages it. Local systems get to make the decisions. We will only provide the avenue to do it. Taxpayers get more bang for their buck, and young people get good education environments, exactly the kind of assistance that local schools need.

The Etheridge School Construction Act now enjoys more than 88 cosponsors in the House and many members of the New Democratic Coalition. I invite others of my colleagues to join me.

My bill has been endorsed by the National Education Association, by the Chief State School Offices, and many other organizations who realize that we must act and we must act now.

I join my colleagues in calling for the congressional leadership in this House to bring up school construction now so that we can act on it and we can have the resources next year.

IMPACT OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS ON OUR SOCIETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is Tuesday night, and again I rush to the floor to talk about illegal narcotics and its impact upon our society and the responsibility we have as a Congress to deal with probably the most important pressing social issue.

It is interesting to sit here and listen to some of my colleagues, not the last two speakers, but previous speakers who talked about the focus of the tension of this Congress during the last week and last several weeks since Columbine.

The latest solution is, I guess, to control gun show sales and then also putting child safety locks on guns, both remedies that may solve some incidences and crime and the use of firearms. But it is amazing how the people who really, I think, got us into this situation we are into, with some of the disrespect for the law, some of the lack of law and order, some of the lack of discipline in our schools, the liberal court decisions and appointments that have gotten us into this situation where young people do not know right from wrong and where anything goes in our society, they come up with solutions that address a tiny part of the problem.

They will go to the heart and soul of this subject, the child or the young person that is committing that crime. It is interesting.

There were 10,000 murders by guns last year in this country, and there should not be one murder in this Nation by a gun or a knife or an explosive or through any other mayhem.

But, again, the liberal side likes to look at these issues and address a little bit of the symptoms and not really address the root problems.

One of the problems that I continually come to the floor and talk about is the problem of illegal narcotics. Certainly if we looked at the root of violence in this country and crime in this country, there is a direct correlation between crime and illegal narcotics use.

Probably a vast majority of the murders committed in the United States were drug related or the individual involved was involved in some type of substance abuse. While there were 10,000 murdered by guns in this country, there were 14,000 who died from the direct cause of drug-related deaths. That does not get much attention. It is unfortunate that, again, we just address some of the symptoms, we do not address the root problems.

□ 1930

I am here again tonight to talk about a problem that we have in our communities. As I said before in the House, we

have a Columbine in our Nation every single day times three with the number of young people that are dying of drug-related deaths. I am not talking totally about the number of suicides, the number of automobile accidents, the other unreported deaths, but more than 14,000 drug-related deaths in the United States that we can trace to this very serious problem in our Nation.

It is interesting, too, that the statistics show that some of the young people involved in violence in our schools and communities, and also involved with weapons, whether they be guns or explosives, also have a drug or substance abuse problem. This one study I will quote, by the Parent Resources and Information on Drugs, called PRID, reported that of high school students who had carried guns to school, 31 percent used cocaine compared to 2 percent of students who had never carried guns to school. The same relationship was found among students in junior high school in the study. The number of gang members, and again we are just zeroing in on one substance, cocaine, who reported using cocaine upon their arrest was 19 percent.

Again, if we start tracing illegal narcotics and substance abuse to our young people, we start looking at the root problem.

Now, we have in our Nation, across the land in jails and prisons and penitentiaries and holding facilities nearly 2 million, 1.8 million, Americans. It is estimated in the hearings that we have conducted both here in Washington and field hearings that we have conducted in our Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources of the Committee on Government Reform, that, in fact, somewhere in the neighborhood of 70 percent of the people behind bars, incarcerated in our prisons and jails, are there because of drug-related offenses. This is a startling statistic.

And, in fact, what is even more startling is the more prisoners who are tested who come into our prisons for illegal narcotics, we find the percentage is increasing every year of drug offenders coming into the system. In fact, even those who are selling drugs are hooked on drugs. Eighty-one percent of the individuals selling drugs tested positive at the time of the arrest, including 56 percent for cocaine and 13 percent of them for heroin.

Again, if we look behind the gun, if we look behind the crime, we see a very serious problem, and that is the problem of illegal narcotics.

Now, some would say, why do we not just let these people out; they are committing harmless crimes, and they should not be incarcerated. We also hear people say, well, most of the people in jail are there because of possession, maybe of marijuana or small amounts of some illegal substance. As chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, we were able to convene, and I chaired last week, probably one of the

first hearings of its type in some years in the Congress. I am not sure even if there had been a previous hearing on the subject. But it was entitled the Pros and Cons of Drug Legalization, Decriminalization and Harm Reduction.

That title was chosen to get people to think and also to have people present before our committee the pros and cons of legalization, because many folks across the land are saying, again, let these folks out of jail, they are there for possession for some minor crime.

Our hearing was very interesting this past week in that we debunked a number of the myths relating to those people who are in prison for a crime. We found, in fact, that they are not there for simple possession. Several studies were reported and are part of that CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but one study that I thought was most interesting, and I pointed this out before, was one conducted in the State of New York that was just completed. It is a study just out from the State Commissioner of Criminal Justice which tells a different story about who is in prison and incarcerated there on drug-related offenses.

In 1996, 87 percent of the 22,000 people in jail in New York for drug crimes were in for selling drugs or intent to sell. Of the 13 percent doing time for possession, 76 percent were arrested for selling drugs or intending to sell. And, actually, some of the final sentences were pleaded down, as they say, to possession. So they were not actually possession.

So here we have a recent study from the State of New York that debunks the theory that people in our jails are there for possession of small amounts of so-called harmless narcotics.

It is interesting that the question also comes before our subcommittee and before the Congress about the tough laws. Are tough laws effective, and do tough laws have any effect on these people who are involved with illegal narcotics? A Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal, head of Phoenix House, a national drug treatment center based in Manhattan, said these tough drug laws have diverted lots of people into treatment who would not have otherwise gone into treatment.

So, again, some of the people who deal with people who are in prisons, people who are involved in illegal narcotics and the treatment for that, they provided testimony to our committee that debunks some of the myths about who is in prison and why they are there.

It was interesting to also have in our panel of witnesses the new Florida State drug czar, Mr. Jim McDonough. He was formerly the Deputy Director of the National Office of Drug Control Policy, and has now been appointed by Governor Bush, Governor Jeb Bush, I do not want to mix him up with the man who is going to be President. In fact, Jeb Bush, our new Governor, created a czar's office and appointed Jim McDonough to head that position.

Jim McDonough testified before us on his viewpoint, and he has a great deal of experience over the years not only at the national level, but dealing with this drug issue. And he said, and let me quote, "Legalizing drugs is a notion to which I am steadfastly opposed. I came to this position after years of observation and study of the nature of drug addiction and its horrific consequences for the addicted, their families and society. The immense costs that drug addiction extract on our Nation were driven home to me during my tenure as Director of Drug Strategy for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. My recent experience as the Director of Florida's Office of Drug Control have only served to reinforce my beliefs on the subject."

So we had a number of people testifying that, again, drug legalization does not make much sense, and, in fact, the liberalization policies do not work. And I want to talk about those liberalization policies in just a moment and give some very specific examples which we had in the hearing and I have talked about before.

But, again, we had a wide variety of testimony. I was quite shocked at the testimony of a representative of Cato Institute, a fairly well-respected think tank here in Washington. The executive vice president of Cato testified before our subcommittee that he felt it was time to legalize heroin and cocaine and basically market it like tobacco and alcohol and other regulated products that we have today. Again, though, the bulk of testimony disputed what Mr. Boaz commented in our hearing, and actually the facts just refuted what he was promoting.

It is important that we just look at a couple of facts that were brought out in the hearing. First of all, it is important to note that drugs are harmful, and not because they are illegal. They are illegal and have been made illegal because they are harmful, and we had scientific evidence that supported that fact; in fact, a bibliography that would probably fill the entire CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, this edition anyway, of those who have looked at these illegal narcotics and have shown us exactly what happens to the body and the mind.

What was particularly interesting is some of the scientists produced X-rays of the brain, images of the brain, which showed the effect of methamphetamine on the brain and how the pattern of abuse begins to model some of the serious diseases that we see in brain scans that are done with people who have Parkinson's or Alzheimer's or other diseases of the brain. So these types of disabilities and diseases can be induced by illegal narcotics.

We have made drugs illegal because they are harmful. Increasing the availability of drugs through legalization would dramatically increase the harm to all of our citizens. One of the problems that we would have with legalization is, the main targets and the main problem that we have today, is our

young people. If we look at the statistics, the statistics are just mind-boggling as far as use of illegal narcotics among our young people. It has leveled off some in the adult population. But, for example, the teenage use of heroin in the last 6 or 7 years has soared 875 percent in our teenage population. So no one would be harmed more than those that we are trying to protect, and that is our young people.

And the question was raised in our hearing and has been raised, too, in the Congress about the public's feeling on this subject. A 1998 poll of voters conducted by the Family Research Council found that 8 of 10 respondents rejected legalization of drugs like cocaine and heroin. So certainly the testimony provided by Mr. Boaz, or Cato, for legalizing these is opposed by a most recent poll, which states, and these numbers are provided by the Family Research Council, that 80 percent of Americans oppose legalization, and 7 out of the 10 are in very strong opposition. A 1999 Gallup poll found that 69 percent of Americans oppose the legalization of marijuana.

One of the items that our hearing focused on, and one of the reasons for the hearing, was that we have lost some of the battles in some of the States around the country on the question of legalization of marijuana for medical purposes. I plan to conduct additional in-depth hearings on that subject, but it is interesting, and we sort of scratched the surface in our hearings about what has been going on, about the tens of millions of dollars that have been coming in to promote this legalization.

Both our national drug czar, Barry McCaffrey, and others testified that they felt that the efforts to get a foothold on the legalization of what are illegal drugs today is being done through this highly-financed campaign to legalize marijuana for medical use. We will look, as I said, further at that question. But this poll says that 69 percent of Americans even oppose the legalization of marijuana.

Proponents argue that legalization is a cure-all for our Nation's drug problem. However, the facts that were brought out in our hearing show that legalization is not a panacea. In fact, the statistics and facts that were brought forth show that legalization and liberalization, in fact, becomes a poison. Legalization would dramatically expand America's drug dependence, significantly increasing societal costs of drug abuse, and put countless more people's lives at risk, and, again, particularly our young people.

□ 1945

The legalization of drugs in the United States would lead to a disproportionate increase in drug use among our young people. Youth drug use, as I have said, has dramatically increased. And our youth drug use is also driven by additives. When young people perceive drugs as risky and socially unacceptable, our youth drug use drops.

We saw that in the Reagan and Bush administration. We had a President, a First Lady, and others who provided leadership and they started campaigns to "just say no." They started really an anti-narcotics effort, a real war on drugs. And that message really got through. Because drug use went down, down, down. Only since 1993, with this President and this administration, have we seen a reversal in that trend.

Legalization would send a strong message that taking drugs is safe and socially accepted behavior that should be tolerated among peers, and this would also go for children again who are most impressionable and do the most harm again among our young population. Such a normalization would play a major role in softening our youth attitudes, and ultimately I think we would see an even greater increase in drug use among our young people.

By increasing the rates of drug abuse, legalization would exact a tremendous cost on our society. This is another fact that was pointed out in our hearings. In fact, if drugs were legalized, the United States would see a significant increase in the number of drug users, the number of addicts, and the number of people dying from drug-related causes. And I will have a little bit more to point out on a couple of studies that were done in just a moment that confirm that.

While many of these costs would fall first and foremost on the drug user, countless others would also suffer if drugs were legalized. Contrary to what the liberal thought folks and legalizers would have us believe, drug use is not indeed a victimless crime. Legalizers will claim the fact that alcohol and tobacco, both legal substances for adults, cause so much harm to society that we should look at drugs and let drugs follow in their pattern.

According to their logic, we cannot get too much of a bad thing. That analogy is false. Law enforcement experts and prison statistics indicate that drug use is directly or indirectly related to 60 to 80 percent of the crime in the United States. And then, of course, they always point to different models. We talk about European models of Switzerland; and, of course, the most well-known is the Dutch model.

The Dutch adopted a soft approach to some drugs. And while they have adopted a softer approach, they have not legalized drugs. Under the Dutch system, possession and small sales of marijuana have been decriminalized. However, marijuana production and larger sales remain criminal. Drugs such as cocaine and heroin remain illegal.

When the Dutch coffee shops started selling marijuana in small quantities, the use of the drug more than doubled between 1984, when they began this, and 1996; and this is particularly among the young people, 18- to 25-year-olds.

In 1997, there was a 25-percent increase in the number of registered cannabis addicts receiving treatment, as compared to a mere three percent rise in the cases of alcohol use. This is interesting because it shows where they have a liberalization and legalization, they have increased addiction.

During this period, the Netherlands has also experienced a serious problem with other substances of abuse, in particular heroin and other synthetic drugs, which remain illegal. The number of heroin addicts in Holland almost tripled since the liberalization of drug policies was instituted.

Again, it shows that this liberal policy, when they liberalize with illegal narcotics, they pay for it on the other end. In most cases, crime does not dramatically drop off but what, in fact, happens is they create a whole new population of addicts.

Let me just show my colleagues, and we have used this chart before, but this is one of the most telling charts. We brought it in the hearing and I displayed it again in the hearing. This shows Baltimore. In Baltimore, in 1950, the population was over 900,000. In 1996, it was 675,000. In 1950, they had 300 heroin addicts. And these statistics were given to me by our Drug Enforcement Agency.

In 1996, as I said, the population dropped some 300,000. Although the City of Baltimore, which had a liberal policy and liberal leadership, had its heroin addict population rise to 38,985. Now, this is the statistic we had for 1996. In fact, I am told that the figure is closer to 50,000. It is almost really one per 10 in Baltimore.

So not only the Dutch model which we just cited but also the Baltimore model shows us that, as we liberalize, we end up, in fact, with this incredible population of addicts.

Now, and I used this in the hearing, if this model was continued in the United States and we legalized heroin, for example, we could have in the neighborhood of about 25 million heroin addicts in the United States. So it shows again, whether it is the Dutch model or the Baltimore model, that this does not work.

Now, we do pay a big price for all of the use that these illegal narcotics and abuse of illegal narcotics. I try to cite every week some of the latest findings or some of the latest news. I come from the State of Florida. I represent East Central Florida. Florida has been plagued by the toll of illegal narcotics.

This headline was in one of the local papers just within the last few weeks. It says, "Illegal Drug Use Toll Soars." "Drug abuse is the main force in driving up hospital charges," the study indicates. The hospital tab just indicated in this study was \$137.5 million in the State of Florida.

Let me read a little bit about what took place and what this study revealed. "A new State study," and again this is in the State of Florida,

Details the high cost of drug abuse to our Floridian hospitals and also to the Florida

taxpayers. The hospital costs for medical conditions, including poisoning, overdoses, and heart attacks triggered by drug abuse in the State, reached about \$137.5 million in 1997, with cocaine and narcotics ranking as the most destructive. Those costs covered just the hospital charges and do not include doctors' time and other services and other things, such as outpatient care and other problems a patient might incur as a result of drug abuse. In its first drug hospitalization cost study, completed in May, the Agency for Health Care Administration said a total of 39,764 cases with drug abuse diagnosis was reported by Floridian hospitals in 1997, the most recent year of statistics that are available.

It is interesting also about this article, and it is a rather lengthy article and I am only citing part of it here, is that most of those affected in these cases, in fact, 59 percent of those who are hospitalized and incurred this cost were between age 15 and 39, the youngest part of our population again the victims of illegal narcotics.

Additionally, I like to update my colleagues on different articles about what drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking is doing. Earlier this year, "Florida Trend" produced their publication with a cover "High Times Special Report, Florida's Billion-Dollar Drug Business," another indication of the impact of illegal narcotics and drug trafficking in my State.

This article said, "High Times," that is the title, "The illegal drug industry has become a fixture in Florida's economy and nearly as corporate as Microsoft."

Let me just read a little bit. "Central Florida has become a major distribution hub and tested market for methamphetamines and especially for heroin, which killed more Central Floridians last year than homicide."

I have carried to the floor one of our headlines that said just recently that more people, particularly our young people in Central Florida, have died as a result of drug-related deaths than homicide.

This study also has some information by University of Miami Business Professor Robert Gross, who estimates that cocaine traffickers in Florida, including wholesalers and low-level dealers, earn in the neighborhood of \$5.4 billion in this illegal trade. And the article goes on and on, in fact it is quite lengthy, telling about the impact of illegal narcotics, the effort to dispose of some of the income, which is all in cash. For every million dollars, it is estimated around 110 pounds of cash has to be laundered. Incredible figures in this drug war. That is in Florida.

Fairly recently a Texas publication, "The Texas Monthly," published a riveting story on "Teenage Wasteland" it is called, and that cited the death and destruction that drugs have brought to Plano, Texas.

I will just quote a little bit of that article. It says, "Now heroin has hit the city hard. There have been 15 fatal heroin overdoses in the past 2 years, nine of them teenagers, all but one younger than 23. They came from good

homes, and they had bright futures." And it goes on to details. Another story of another community.

It is not just Florida our hearings have indicated. It is Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, California, the list goes on and on, of areas where we have had incredible problems from the impact of illegal narcotics.

I cited a little bit earlier the Baltimore model and the Dutch model, which were brought up in our hearings and provided as evidence in our hearings relating to legalization. We do know, however, that in fact top policies relating to illegal narcotics do work. There is no more telling evidence than the evidence that is supplied by DEA on the deaths in New York City. These are the decreases in the murder rate in New York City.

If we look back to the early part of this decade, they were averaging over 2,000 deaths in New York City according to this report again by DEA.

□ 2000

The tough policies of the mayor, a former prosecutor, Rudy Giuliani, have brought the latest tally of murders down to 629, a 70 percent decrease in murders in that city. It just shows again that tough enforcement policy does in fact work and is effective in reducing murders, drug abuse and drug-related crimes. There is no question about it. The statistics speak for themselves.

What I would also like to do tonight, in addition to talking about the hearing that we held last week, is talk about a hearing that we are going to hold tomorrow, and that is a hearing on extradition, and it relates to Mexico. As I have pointed out before, we know where the drugs are coming from.

Let me pull up another chart here. This chart shows where heroin is coming into the United States, its origin. Seventy-five percent of the heroin comes from South America. This is a dramatic change over a few years ago, mostly brought about as a result of the Clinton policies to stop drug interdiction, to stop the crop eradication programs, to take the military out of the war on drugs; to basically close down the war on drugs, that decision was made. We now see South America as the source of 75 percent of the heroin. We see smaller amounts, 5 percent from Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia is 6 percent. If we added Mexico in, we are looking at 89 percent of the heroin coming from Mexico, in South America.

The Clinton administration had a very specific policy of not providing assistance, arms, helicopters, resources in any way to Colombia. That is how Colombia got to be the number one producer of cocaine in the past 6 years. It was not even on the chart 6 years ago. The number one producer of heroin in the last 6 years. There was almost zero heroin or opium poppy grown in Colombia 6 years ago. Again, the direct result of this administration's policy was to have that country now become the major producer. That heroin

and cocaine are transiting not only directly from Colombia but 60 to 70 percent of the hard drugs coming into the United States are transiting through Mexico. That includes cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines. Mexico has the distinction of being our number one producer of methamphetamines, but it also accounts for 60 to 70 percent of all the hard drugs coming into the United States and probably even a bigger percentage of marijuana.

For that reason, I intend to focus attention tonight, tomorrow and in the future on the problems we have had with Mexico, because in spite of the United States providing incredible trade benefits, financial support to Mexico, Mexico has snubbed its nose at the United States. They have gotten away with allowing this President, this administration, to certify Mexico as fully cooperating, and this administration, this President, have really made a sham of the certification process, because Congress passed a law back in 1986 that said the President must certify annually whether a country is fully cooperating with the United States in order to get foreign aid, trade and financial benefits. That is the law of the land. Now, they have certified Mexico as fully cooperating, in spite of the fact that Mexico, after repeated requests, have not extradited to date one Mexican national who is a major drug trafficker.

Tomorrow, our hearing will focus primarily on the question of Mexico becoming a haven for murderers and drug traffickers. According to testimony before our subcommittee by the Department of Justice recently, as of last month, there are currently about 275 outstanding requests for extradition of Mexican nationals. About 47 of these individuals are in custody in Mexico. Unfortunately, many of these individuals, including the individual we are talking about tomorrow in our hearing, who was convicted of a brutal slaying in southwest Florida of the mother, I believe, of six children, who fled this country and is charged with murder and we have had an extradition request for nearly 2 years, Mexico has ignored those requests, for 275 outstanding extradition requests and the Del Toro request. The Del Toro request again is the focus of our hearing tomorrow, a heinous crime, and after repeated requests this administration still has not extradited that individual. Tomorrow we hope to find out more of the details surrounding this case and put additional pressure on Mexico to act.

Unfortunately, what we have found in just our hearings to date is that the system of justice in Mexico is nearly completely broken, that bribes are paid to judges and to prosecutors, that the system of justice is corrupt and subject to corruption and that many of these individuals who we are seeking extradition of back to the United States to face justice which they fear, these individuals are gaming the system in Mexico. Now, Mr. Del Toro, who is wanted

on a charge again of this heinous murder in southwest Florida, is not a Mexican national, he is a United States citizen. He was born in the United States. His parents were born in the United States. And he fled to Mexico and has used Mexico as a cover and again the corrupt Mexican judicial system to avoid prosecution, to avoid coming to the United States through extradition. We will find out why he and others have not been extradited.

In the area of narcotics violation, Mexican narcotics trafficking organizations facilitate the movement of between 50 and 60 percent of the almost 300 metric tons of cocaine consumed in the United States annually. Mexico is now the source, as we saw from the chart, of 14 percent of the heroin seized by law enforcement in this country. Just a few years ago, it was not even on the charts. Now they are becoming a major producer. And Mexico also takes the leading role and wins the Emmy award for being the chief smuggler of methamphetamine and the base ingredient for methamphetamine, as well as marijuana.

What again is a slap in the face to the United States Congress who requested over 2 years in a resolution passed on this floor the extradition of major drug traffickers, to date not one major drug trafficker has been extradited.

Let me just point out a few of those suspects who were most wanted and for whom we have asked for extradition. These will be a few of our most popular individuals tonight.

This is Rafael Caro-Quintero. Mr. Caro-Quintero is a Mexican national and a U.S. fugitive. He is incarcerated in Mexico on drug charges and the U.S. has asked that he be extradited. He has 22 pending U.S. criminal charges against him. His organization was responsible for sending tons of drugs into the United States. If anyone can deliver him to the United States, I think there is a multi-million-dollar award for his capture. We would like him extradited. We would like him to see justice in the United States of America.

Let me also bring up two more suspects we will talk about a little bit tomorrow and tonight. In fact, we have a family routine here. We have Luis and Jesus Amezcua. We have two brothers and a third here. The Amezcua brothers, there are three of them, are the chiefs of one of the world's largest methamphetamine trafficking organizations. Recently, despite overwhelming evidence, all Mexican drug charges have been dismissed. These drug dealers, and again the major identified methamphetamine dealers who are bringing that death and destruction into the United States have had their drug charges dismissed in Mexico. The Amezcuas, I believe two of them, are being held in custody on extradition orders from the United States but to date have not been extradited. Again the Mexican court, making a joke of justice even in their own coun-

try, have dropped charges against them. Another major methamphetamine kingpin, their younger brother, Adam, was released from prison in May. A Mexican appellate judge threw out trafficking and other charges against him. So we are also looking for the Amezcua brothers. I will say since we began our harangue against Mexico this year and pressure that we have brought and also legislation that has been introduced by myself, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and others that we are going to go after the assets of these major drug kingpins and other assets of some of those organizations that are related to these drug traffickers.

We have succeeded just in the last 2 weeks in getting the extradition of William Brian Martin. He was turned over, I believe, recently at the border. He was wanted on a whole bunch of charges. This individual is an American national. Again we have waited since 1993 for that extradition.

It is my hope through tomorrow's hearing that we can bring a murderer to justice in the United States and that we can shed light on how he has escaped justice and how he has used the Mexican judicial system to avoid extradition. We still have over 40 major Mexican drug traffickers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to include in the RECORD a list of all of the major drug traffickers with outstanding extradition requests.

The list is as follows:

MAJOR MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS WITH
OUTSTANDING EXTRADITION REQUESTS
(SOURCE: DEA)

Agustin Vasquez-Mendoza
Ramon Arrellano-Felix
Rafael Caro-Quintero
Vincente Carrillio-Fuentes
Miguel Angel Martinez-Martinez
Antonio Reynoso-Gonzalez
Mario Antonio Hernandez-Acosta
Jesus Amezcua-Contreras
Arturo Paez-Martinez
Jaime Ladino-Avila
Jose Gerardo Alvarez-Vasquez
Luis Amezcua-Contreras

Mr. Speaker, again we will continue to bring to the Congress, to the House of Representatives, the problem that we face with illegal narcotics, the problem that we face in dealing with countries like Mexico where we have 60 to 70 percent of the hard drugs trafficking through that country into the United States, now becoming a source country of production and a country that has failed miserably in cooperating with extraditing both murderers and major drug traffickers to the United States. We hope additionally to get assistance from Mexico in signing a maritime agreement which we have requested for 2 years and they have ignored. We hope to get assistance from the Mexicans to aid our DEA agents to defend themselves while in Mexican territory, and there are just a handful of these brave DEA agents in that country. We hope, and we have some reports that Mexico is beginning to install radar in the

south, and we hope to hold their feet to the fire because the drugs coming up from Colombia and South America transit through the south of Mexico. Finally, we want to seek the cooperation of Mexico in enforcing laws that they have passed dealing with illegal narcotics trafficking which they have really thumbed their nose at, including Operation Casa Blanca, a U.S. Customs operation where last year our Customs investigators uncovered a plot to launder hundreds of millions of dollars through banks and arrested individuals, indicted individuals, and Mexican officials knew about it and even so Mexico when these indictments and arrests were made threatened to arrest United States Customs officials and other U.S. law enforcement officers. So rather than cooperate fully as the law requires for certification, they have actually thumbed their nose at the United States.

□ 2015

So, Mr. Speaker, with those comments tonight, tomorrow we will hear more about Mexico and how it has become a haven for murderers and for drug traffickers, and we will return to the floor with additional information both to the Congress and the American people on the biggest social problem facing our Nation and the root problem to many of the crimes, the murders, the gun offenses that we see in this Nation. That is the problem of illegal narcotics.

EVENTS IN THE BALKANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, before I get into tonight's discussion, I want to first compliment my good friend from Florida (Mr. MICA) for his weekly reminder to this body and to the Nation about the evils of drugs and the drug war and the challenges that we still face as a Nation.

As a former prosecutor in western Wisconsin and special prosecutor in the State of Wisconsin, I saw up front and close and personal the evil effects that drugs have, not only in our society, but with individuals and the families and the communities in which the problem persists. And I look forward to working in the coming weeks and for the rest of this session with my friend from Florida to develop a comprehensive and commonsense policy in order to tackle this scourge in American society. But I do compliment him for all the wonderful work that he has done in committee and for this body for the sake of the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, what I like to do right now is kind of change gears a little bit. I rise today along with a few other colleagues who I anticipate will be joining me in a little bit to talk for a while

about the events in the Balkans and, more specifically, our involvement in Kosovo. The events have been progressing quite rapidly over the last week and a half or so after Milosevic had finally agreed to capitulate.

Now I think now is a good opportunity for us to kind of stand back and take a look at the past, present conditions in the Balkans area and also the vision of the future in that area, as tenuous as it may be.

There is no question that, thus far, things seem to be progressing according to plan, knock on wood, but it is going to be a very difficult task of implementing the peace, of securing it. Now that we have won the conflict, it is vitally important that we do everything possible not to lose the war, and that is the next great challenge that we face as a Nation, as the leader of the NATO alliance for the sake of the European continent.

But let us give credit where credit is due tonight, Mr. Speaker, starting with the troops in the area. I had the opportunity, the privilege really, a few short weeks ago to be a part of a small congressional delegation of 10 other Members who headed over to the Balkans on a fact-finding mission.

It was really a threefold purpose for going over there. One was to meet with military command, the leadership there, and get an assessment from them.

Another reason for going was to meet with the troops in the field, make sure that everything that they needed in order to carry out their mission as safely and efficiently as possible was being delivered to them.

Finally, a chance to get into the refugee camps, meet with the Kosovar refugees, families, hear from them firsthand what terror and horror they had just been put through in Kosovo, the fortunate ones that were able to successfully leave the country.

It was a fascinating trip, it was incredibly emotional and very moving listening to the firsthand accounts of the innocent civilians who were forced out of the country and what had just taken place inside their villages and cities.

All of them had their own horror story to tell. Each of them explained in their own terms the terror that they had just survived. I did not encounter one person in those refugee camps, Mr. Speaker, who was not affected by the loss of a loved one, either someone who they had personally witnessed executed before their very eyes or who had fled, many of them up into the mountains to avoid the Serb forces.

And you cannot help but go to a region and experience what I think we did as a delegation and not be moved and profoundly affected by what has taken place in the Balkans.

But I do believe that was the right policy for the right reason at the right time, the NATO campaign against Milosevic. I also believe that credit should go to the 19 democratic nations

of NATO who stood united and through their perseverance finally prevailed in getting Milosevic to capitulate and to end the atrocities in Kosovo.

I think it was a real show of determination and the very credibility of NATO and the U.S. leadership on the European continent, and as the leader of NATO was very much on the line.

But this policy has been difficult to explain to the folks back home in Wisconsin. I think by and large the people who I have had the opportunity to talk to about this and to elicit their opinions have felt very conflicted about our role in the Balkans and with the NATO air campaign.

They see, as everyone else does in the country, the horror image that has been reported on TV, and they have heard the stories, the plight of the Kosovar families, the ethnic cleansing and the atrocities that have taken place in Kosovo, and I think the natural reaction for most Americans is to try to do something to prevent that.

But on the other hand there was also the tug, the concern, that this could turn into a quagmire. It may be our next Vietnam in areas so far away that we knew very little about as far as the history and the peoples and the origins of the conflicts, the politics of the situation, the socioeconomic conditions in the Balkans, that people also felt conflicted about our active and leadership role in this campaign.

And so you get a lot of conflicting advice, as you can imagine, from folks back home. I have been certainly severely criticized in the press, letters to the editor, people on the street who come up to me who vehemently disagree with my support for the NATO campaign and my belief that it was in the United States' interests to be involved on the European continent again.

But hopefully what we have today is the dawn of the new era of peace, a lasting peace in the region, a peace that is going to finally see the removal of Slobodan Milosevic from power in Serbia, a peace that will see real democratic reform take place within the Balkan countries and a peace that will see the eventual inclusion of these Balkan nations into the community of nations in Europe as full-fledged partners in the European Union and perhaps even some day members of the NATO alliance itself.

Is this an illusion or a pipe dream? I really do not think so. But I think first and foremost the credit really does belong to those young men and women in American uniform who are being asked yet again in the 20th century to try to restore some peace and stability on a conflict-torn region called the European continent and to try to restore some humanity to the European continent.

I think the concern was as the 20th century entered in very bloody internecine warfare primarily in this region. The beginning of the 20th century that we were going to exit the 20th century

under the same type of conditions, and I think today is a day where Americans can stand tall and feel proud about the role that the United States of America played in trying to help innocent civilians to end the atrocities that were being committed in Kosovo by Milosevic's forces and to try to bring some peace and stability to this continent, a continent that we have paid dearly with our own blood during the first half of the 20th century.

It was, after all, even though the United States was the first half of the century pursuing a policy of disengagement from Europe of isolationism, it was a single shot that rang out on the streets of Sarajevo, the capital of Yugoslavia, back in 1914 that provided the spark that led to the blaze that eventually engulfed all of Europe and ultimately drew the United States, reluctantly albeit, into the First World War at a tremendous cost and sacrifice to our Nation with the loss of young lives that were spilled on the continent of Europe.

And then in the shadow of the First World War and all of the conditions that were created in trying to form a lasting peace, we ultimately saw a Second World War just two short decades after the first one on the continent. But again, between the inter-war periods, the United States and the people in this country felt that it was not in our interest to be actively involved in Europe, that we can retreat across the ocean again, pursue a policy of splendid isolationism, hope that the countries in Europe can settle their differences themselves and that things would just work out on their own, but unfortunately the efforts of Europe proved otherwise.

In fact, public opinion polling before the bombing of Pearl Harbor; yes, they did do some polling back then, too; revealed that the overwhelming majority of Americans felt that the problems on the European continent were not our problems, that it was something we should avoid at all costs, that we had our own issues and concerns to deal with within the continental United States and that the last thing we wanted to do was get dragged into the European conflict again.

And we tried pursuing that policy of splendid isolationism while at the same time FDR was trying to move the country into the realization that, no, we do have vital interests at stake regarding the stability and the peace in Europe. But it did take the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, to arouse this Nation into action and again draw us into the Second World War as reluctant participants.

And the cost of those two world wars were tremendous. Over 500,000 young American lives lost during those two conflicts, over a million casualties we suffered. And at the end of the Second World War we made a policy change in the country, that never again should it be viewed in our interests to stand back and to let events go unheeded in

Europe, that it was in our interests to remain engaged and to pursue a policy of peace and stability and promoting democratic reforms throughout the continent.

That is what gave rise, after all, to the Marshall Plan. We literally rebuilt Europe and Japan from the ashes of conflict from the Second World War, and it ultimately gave rise to the NATO alliance that has had U.S. leadership for the past 50 or so years.

And who can argue with the success of NATO? The last 50 years in Europe have been some of the most peaceful years that the continent has ever experienced, and I would submit it is in a large measure due to the United States participation, active involvement, with not only economic conditions in Europe, but the NATO military alliance, to provide some stability and to give these countries a chance to experience real democracy, real freedom, and liberties that we unfortunately at times take for granted in the United States.

But none of this could have been done without the tremendous commitment and professionalism exhibited by our U.S. troops throughout Europe, but especially in this conflict. It is truly amazing for me to have gone over there and to have met with many of the troops who are involved in carrying out their mission whether it was the logistical support base at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. And we met with the troops there providing assistance to the campaign or meeting with the pilots in Aviano, Italy, the F-15, the F-16 pilots carrying out the sortie missions over Kosovo, even spending half a day in Tirana, Albania, with Task Force Hawk, the Apache helicopter task force that was deployed, and they were ultimately employed in the Kosovo conflict.

But just meeting with these young men and women was truly inspiring, seeing their professionalism, the dedication, the commitment that they exhibited. No other Nation in the world, Mr. Speaker, could have done what the United States did do in this situation within a very short period of time, being able to deploy a force of that magnitude, deployed even in Albania in a short time period in which it was deployed and still dealing with the humanitarian catastrophe, the likes of which the continent has not seen since the Second World War. It was truly an amazing feat that I think America can be proud of given our logistical capabilities that do exist on the European continent.

And I just wish all Americans had the opportunity that I and the rest of my colleagues who went on that mission over to the Balkans to see and to meet these troops as I did. These are the young men and women who are day and night guarding the fence of freedom, protecting our security and maintaining our interests across the globe.

□ 2030

They are the best trained, the best capable military that the world has

ever seen. I think they proved that in the Kosovo conflict.

But it has been a difficult policy to explain and to justify U.S. interests in the Balkans. However, I believe it was the right policy for the right reasons. If we are going to learn any lessons from the Second World War, it is that the United States should not stand idly by when we do have the capability to do something about it and watch the innocent slaughter of civilians in Europe, and in the Balkans in this instance.

It was not my first trip to the Balkans. I went over about a year ago and visited the NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, a policy I believe has been extremely successful since the end of the hostilities in that country back in 1996. I also had a chance to visit the former Yugoslavian Republic back in 1990 as a student, Mr. Speaker, with a backpack on my back, traveling by myself throughout the region, when I, as a student of history, who loved to read a lot about European history in particular, saw the war clouds on the horizon after Milosevic came to power in 1989. I wanted to take that opportunity to get into that country quickly and meet the people throughout Yugoslavia, and other students, and get their reaction and their impression as to whether war was imminent and inevitable.

It was striking back then that those who I met were not convinced that this was necessarily and inevitably going to lead to warfare. In fact, many of them believed that it would have been catastrophic for those different ethnic groups to turn on one another. They were working incredibly hard back then to make economic progress, to have an integrated Yugoslavian area that could eventually be included into the European Union and the rest of the Western European continent for the benefits of trade and the economy. And they felt that it was senseless for them to turn on one another and to begin a conflict and to subject the region to war. But 6 short months after my visit to the region, sure enough, that is when the first fighting broke loose.

I think all too often when we get involved in these types of military conflicts across the globe, but here in particular, we tend to focus on the short term and on the specifics of the immediate situation. I think it is helpful from time to time to step back and get a historical perspective as far as what is happening around the countries and where all of this is leading. I think with that historical perspective, we have a lot of reason to be optimistic that we can see a lasting peace in the Balkans, a peace that will lead to democratic reforms and to economic integration into that region.

Let me just go down to the well in order to illustrate a point of what I am trying to get at. It is really a remarkable phenomenon that we have seen take place across Europe in the last decade or so. I think the historical

trends that have been sweeping across Europe over the last 10 years are working in our favor when it comes to managing a lasting peace and an optimistic vision for the Balkans.

With that, let me descend into the well.

Mr. Speaker, what I put up here a little bit earlier is a map of Europe. The title of it is European Transition to Democratic Government, 1989-1999. Why is 1989 a significant date? Well, that is when the Berlin Wall fell, and that is when the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union occurred. That is when the Communist nations throughout Europe started to fall one right after another. I had a chance to visit Central Europe a few short months after the collapse of the Communist governments.

But what this map depicts, the blue area showing the countries in Western Europe show what nations had democratic governments before 1989, before the collapse of communism. We recognize the boot-shaped Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, but we can see how limited this map is before 1989 when it came to democratic governments that were already existing on the continent of Europe. But after the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the Communist regimes, the purple area demonstrates how democracy has since swept Europe and what countries now have been included into the fold of democratic nations. All of central Europe, including East Germany which is now a part of Germany; all of the former Soviet Union.

What the red portions of this map demonstrate are those nations that are still lagging behind in this great historical sweep of Europe, that are still dominated by authoritarian and dictatorial regimes, one of which is still right here in the heart of central Europe, Belarus; and the other happens to be the Yugoslav Republic under the Milosevic regime down here in the Balkans.

I think what this demonstrates all too well is that Milosevic in this situation is isolated. He is an island. He is surrounded by emerging democracies. I mean, who amongst us could have predicted that in 10 short years some of the most repressive Communist regimes in central Europe would today be flourishing democracies and full members of the European Union, and even members of the NATO Alliance itself, within 10 short years. That was unimaginable pre-1989. But, in fact, that has been the historical trend right now. It is only so long when one Communist dictator can withstand the force of historical events.

What we see here is a Serbia that is completely surrounded and isolated by emerging democracies; some that are full-fledged democracies, others that are well on the road to democratic reforms and democratic institutions. I think that, more than anything, gives us hope that it is going to be a matter of time, I think, in my own opinion, a

matter of a very short time when Serbia and these Balkan nations are going to institute democratic reforms, when they are going to reject the authoritarian and criminal policies of Slobodan Milosevic and move to democratic institutions, have democratic elections, and then ultimately change the conditions which would allow their acceptance into the rest of Europe and into the European Union. That, for me, gives me a lot of hope, a lot of promise, really, that what we did in the Balkans, albeit very difficult in the short term, is going to be the right policy in the long term by giving these people a chance of realizing true peace and stability and allowing democratic reform to take place.

I think that is a message that we have not heard all that much of during the course of this conflict in the Balkans, during the NATO air campaign, is that we certainly have time on our side, and that Milosevic is facing irresistible forces throughout the continent of Europe, and that as long as we can continue to maintain the policy in the international community of isolating him, as has been accomplished now through the NATO air campaign, through the International War Crimes Tribunal issuing an indictment against Milosevic as a war criminal, the first time any sitting President of a nation has been indicted for war crimes, and also given the significant event of Russia coming over and accepting the NATO objectives during this campaign and further isolating Milosevic, he is basically left with no friends anymore in the international community.

That is what gives me a lot of hope that what we can see happen in this region is a very successful policy of engagement, leading to democratic reforms and leading to a Balkans area that will be included within the rest of the European community as far as democracy and economic integration is concerned. So I think certainly we have that possibility, we certainly have that capability right now, but the reports, the news stories coming out, at least right now, appears to show that things are working according to plan.

What I would like to do now is yield to my friend, the gentlewoman from Chicago, Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who is one of my colleagues who was able to join us on the trip over to the Balkans just a few short weeks ago.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for organizing this intelligent and thoughtful and optimistic discussion, and for allowing me to participate.

From May 20 to May 24, we were both part of a congressional delegation to the Balkans that was led by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), and due to the persistence really of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), our delegation was able to get a firsthand picture of the situation in the days before the agreement was

signed, a very comprehensive picture of the refugee camps and the troop deployment, and to meet with General Wesley Clarke. It was quite an informative and incredible trip.

The most poignant moment for me and I think for all of us came on Sunday, May 23, when we were at the Kosovo/Macedonia border of Blace when traumatized refugees began streaming, or, more appropriately, staggering, across the border. We were able to talk with them, and what we heard made us literally weep along with them. Stories of guns to the head, a grenade thrown into a family group; being driven from home with 5 minutes' notice; eating grass in the hills; hunger; terror; murder.

In a tent of some 15 women, I would say, and a few dozen children, it was eerily quiet. Those of us who have children know that when we get that many little kids together, it is usually noisy and a lot of energy. It was really silent in there. These women had no idea where their husbands were, and their children, of course, had no idea where their fathers were.

In another tent, a well-dressed man pointed to the wheelbarrow he had used to wheel his frail, elderly mother across the border. He was fine for a while in talking about what happened to his family, but then, when he talked about the wheelbarrow and pointed to his mother who was sitting on a blanket, he broke down. She was comforting him by saying, at least we are still alive. He did not know, however, if the same were true for his grown children.

The day that I came back, there was an e-mail waiting for me from a constituent that said, I quote, "I have serious reservations about your casual use of terms like atrocities, crimes against humanity, genocide." I guess that e-mail kind of hit me at the wrong moment, because after having talked to victims of and witnesses to the terror of the Serbian forces, I felt that these words were exactly appropriate.

And now, of course, we are learning more every day about the extent of the atrocities committed against the ethnic Albanian Kosovars. Estimates of the number dead keep rising. Evidence of torture abounds. Mass graves, rape, burned bodies, human shields, it is really hard to read the accounts.

Then the evening after our return, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), who was also part of our delegation, and I cohosted a reception at the Holocaust Museum for our freshmen colleagues. At that event, Miles Lehrman, who is president of the Holocaust Council and a Holocaust survivor said, this is his quote: "It is here," he was talking about the museum, "It is here where you will fully comprehend that the Holocaust did not begin in Auschwitz or in any of the death camps. It began when lawmakers lacked the stamina to speak out against the constantly escalating evils. It is here where it will become clear to

you what our role in Kosovo must be. It is here where you will see what can happen to a people who become mesmerized by a political charlatan who professed to simple answers to complex and difficult problems. It is here where you will be able to fortify your inner strengths, to stick to your convictions and speak your mind in your legislative deliberations, even at times when your opinion may not be most popular. It will strengthen your determination to stand alone, if need be, and speak truth to power."

That was Miles Lehrman, the president of the Holocaust Council.

I often speak of my granddaughter, Isabel, on this floor. She is now 15 months old. I thought about her when I thought about Kosovo and knew that if, when she grew up, she asked me what I did to stop the killing of innocent people, I wanted to tell her that I did the right thing. And when I listened to that brave survivor of the Holocaust, I heard him say that we did the right thing to stop Milosevic.

But our job is not done yet. It will not be done until those mothers are reunited with their husbands who we hope are still alive; until the man and his mother are home, and the wheelbarrow is used in the garden again; and until our children start playing games of peace and not of war. And until the vision of the gentleman from Wisconsin, his vision of Europe that, with the help of the United States and NATO and the international community, can be a unified Europe working as part of a more unified international community, I think that was the ultimate goal of our mission there, and I hope very much that we can be part of achieving that goal as we move forward.

□ 2045

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments and participation on this issue, and for traveling with me just a few weeks ago. It really was a moving, very emotional experience, I think, for all of us.

I have never seen a group of representatives, Mr. Speaker, who were quieter or more chagrined than we were when we boarded that bus at Blace, the refugee camp in northern Macedonia, having met with the families the moment they took their first steps out of Kosovo and talking to them, and hearing firsthand accounts of the atrocities and the terror that they were just put through.

Now we read the headlines of the recent days showing that what we feared is in fact materializing; that once NATO troops, the peacekeeping troops, were allowed to go into Kosovo along with the western media, who were specifically excluded during the 78-day air campaign, that the atrocities are even more magnified and even more horrific.

In fact, this headline in the papers a couple of days ago reads "Kosovo Albanians returning in droves," which is no surprise. When we talked with the fam-

ilies in the camps, they were very eager that once NATO prevailed, that they wanted to get back to their homes, which was a natural reaction.

What was interesting, however, was another reason they gave, for why they felt it was so important to get back to their homes as soon as possible. It was the same that thing that many Albanians and Muslims experienced during the Bosnia conflict just a few short years ago when Serb forces overran their towns. They stripped them of everything that they had, identity, identification papers, documents proving ownership of property.

And when they were eventually allowed to come back and resettle, it was very difficult for them to prove up ownership of their properties and of their homes. They were concerned the same thing was going to happen in Kosovo. In fact, they knew when they were expelled that many of the towns and villages were being laid waste and burned to the ground, but they were eager to get back see what did remain, and to lay claim again to their ownership and to their lands.

But the other subtitle to this article reads, "Serb-led Offensive Took 10,000 Lives, According to British Estimates." That figure was still higher than what the actual predictions were earlier. In fact, that number is being escalated every day with the revelation of more mass graves and the body counts that are coming with it. It was something that we feared at the time. Since we did not have people inside Kosovo that could give us firsthand accounts, other than the refugees themselves, it was very difficult to predict just the magnitude of the atrocities and the mass executions and mass graves that are now being uncovered.

Sure enough, now that the NATO peacekeeping troops are allowed in they are uncovering mass grave after mass grave, and the number is only going up and up and up. Again, I think our worst fears are being realized. I also believe that but for the NATO campaign, the atrocities would have been much more severe than what we are witnessing today.

There has been some criticism that because of the NATO campaign, it led to the brutality and to the ethnic cleansing that occurred in Kosovo. I happen to disagree with that, given historical indicators and facts. In fact, the policy of oppression within Kosovo itself and even Bosnia really began shortly after Milosevic came to power in 1989.

These were groups, provinces within Yugoslavia that enjoyed a form of self-autonomy during the Tito regime. Tito realized that given the ethnic diversity of the region, it made sense to allow them a form of self-autonomy, to allow them to practice their own religion and culture and have their own language.

But Milosevic came to power by nationalizing the issue and by claiming that Kosovo is Serbia. Immediately when he took power in 1989 he started

cracking down on the ethnic Albanians within Kosovo, stripping them of their identity, of their culture and history, and even disallowing the use of their own language.

But the atrocities really started to be stepped up in the early 1998 period when Serb forces started moving in. That is when the negotiations between the West and Milosevic started. It was later in the year at Rambouillet where we were trying to reach a peaceful resolution to what was occurring in Kosovo.

But this is not something that started overnight. This was not a change in NATO policy. In fact, it was a policy that was clearly enunciated back in 1991 and 1992 within the NATO nations themselves, but also within the Bush administration, when President Bush clearly warned Milosevic that if he moved on Kosovo, that NATO would move on him. It was really a continuation of that policy into the Clinton administration and within the NATO alliance that ultimately led to the NATO air strike campaign against Milosevic's forces in Kosovo.

But I think we are going to see in the coming days more and more stories of the atrocities and the brutality that was perpetrated on these people within Kosovo.

Another article I think demonstrates a little bit of the ambivalence that not only the American people were feeling in the course of this campaign, but some of the troops themselves in the area.

It was interesting when I was in Aviano, Italy, talking to a lot of the pilots, asking them their opinion as far as the policy and whether or not this made sense and if it was working, one of the pilots came to me and said, if you could see what we see flying these missions over Kosovo, the lines of refugees streaming out, and you could tell where the line originated from because of the black plumes of smoke coming up from behind them of the burnt villages and burnt cities that they were fleeing from Serb forces, and the bodies strewn along the countryside, if you could see that as we are flying over the countryside it would remove any doubt that this is something we have to do.

In fact, in an article last week a couple of the other troops were interviewed. Let me just quote this. This was in USA Today. The headline reads "Marines Play Hurry Up and Wait."

"The moment arrives beneath a trash-strewn overpass in the heart of Skopje.

"Huddled in the shadows are dozens of children, some in underwear, others barefoot, each waving dirty hands formed into peace symbols.

"'Nah-toe! Nah-toe!' their cries thunder off the overpass walls.

"'Wow,' says Lance Corporal Jon Hager, 23, of Carlisle, Pa., at the wheel of a marine Humvee. . . .

"'I'll never forget it,' says Lt. John Marcinek, 28, of Rochester, N.Y., commander of the Marine Combined Anti-

armor Team, which will be responsible for securing" the part of Southeast Kosovo that the United States is responsible for.

"Resting in the sizzling sun near the border with Kosovo, Marcinek searches out a pen and pad.

He says, "I want to write my girlfriend and tell her this was the best experience that has ever happened to me," says the former Utah ski bum. "It hits you straight in the heart. The tears flowed."

"For Sergeant James Loy, the sight does nothing less than change his views on being in the Balkans.

He said, "I'll be honest, until now I didn't really feel like we needed to be here. Until I saw those kids," and he has a 10-month-old son himself called Christopher. He went on to say, "We do have a purpose here, and that's to get those kids back home. Some people in the U.S. think we're just here to kill. But we can help give these people their freedom back."

And get something monumental in return: "This is our moment in history," he said. "If people in the United States could see this now, they'd understand."

What is encouraging in recent days are some of the reports coming out of Serbia itself indicating that internal opposition to Milosevic is rising. This article reads "Serbian orthodox church urges Milosevic and his cabinet to quit."

Another article in today's paper, the Washington Post, entitled "Serbs From Kosovo Assail Government. Pro-Western Politicians Seek Elections."

Here the article reads "Last week, a 45-year-old Serbian lawyer named Dragan Antic fled his home in southern Kosovo for fear of ethnic Albanian guerrillas who were beginning to pour into town. Today he stood in the center of Belgrade denouncing Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic as the source of his troubles.

"It is Slobodan who is guilty," he shouted as police attempted to break up a protest rally by a hundred or so Serbs who had just recently fled Kosovo. "What was the purpose of fighting this war if we had to give Kosovo away? Before the war we were living in our homes. Now we have nothing more than the clothes you see on our backs." "Milosevic led us in the wrong direction," complained another displaced Serb. We should be entering the European Union and cooperating with the rest of the world. Instead, we are completely isolated."

Adding to the pressure on Milosevic, a pro-Western political opposition group announced plans today for a series of demonstrations to demand early parliamentary elections in Serbia.

I think what we are seeing is internal opposition starting to rise up against Milosevic, realizing that it is because of his policies in the region that has cost them their homes as a result, and that they realize that their future cannot any longer be tied into the brutal

regime of the butcher of Belgrade. I think he has been so aptly named the butcher of Belgrade.

A couple more stories in the paper indicating what has transpired in recent days. "Framework for peace takes shape. Last Serb soldiers leave Kosovo." They had left 12 hours ahead of time, which allowed NATO to formally declare an ending of the NATO air campaign.

Then perhaps, most significantly, the KLA signs a peace agreement calling for the demilitarization of the KLA army. That is one of the key linchpins to a successful peaceful resolution and stability in the region, is that the KLA, the guerillas that were fighting against Milosevic's armies in Kosovo, are agreeing to disarm and to allow democratic reforms to take place in the country.

Here is one that really gives me a lot of hope: "KLA Chief Appeals to Serbs to Return. Political Leader Says Rebels Support 'Democratic Kosovo.'"

The political leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army said today that the ethnic Albanian rebel group is committed to building "a modern civil society" in the Serbian province, and appealed to fleeing Serbs to return to live in a democratic Kosovo, as long as they have not committed any crimes against their people.

I think these are all indications of what is transpiring in recent days that could give us a lot of hope to be optimistic regarding the success of our mission in Kosovo.

What I would like to do right now is to yield some time to one of our leaders in the Democratic Caucus, someone who has been at the forefront of this issue, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin, for yielding to me. I want to congratulate the gentleman for focusing on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we do so because I think we need to reflect upon what the lessons of this operation are. Many had doubts. Many were concerned that we were going to lose large numbers of people. Many were concerned that those who had been expelled from Kosovo would not want to go home. Many frankly were opposed to the President's leadership on this issue because they thought it was wrong.

Mr. Speaker, the butcher of Belgrade, however, is in full retreat. NATO's 78-day air campaign operation allied force has harnessed Slobodan Milosevic's unbridled barbarism. It is producing the results we knew it would. It has made the world, in my opinion, a safer place today.

When we look at Southeastern Europe tonight and compare it to the situation there just 3 months ago, what do we see? First, of course, as I have said, we see a weakened Milosevic, both at home and abroad. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) mentioned

and I will repeat that just this morning the Washington Post reported that demonstrations denouncing Milosevic's genocidal rampage in Kosovo have begun to occur in Belgrade. We expected them in Pristina, but they are occurring in Belgrade.

One Serb protester complained, and this bears repeating, as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) just used this quote, "Milosevic lied to us. He led us in the wrong direction. We should be entering the European Union and cooperating with the rest of the world. Instead, we are completely isolated."

Second, we see 1.3 million Kosovars who were forced to flee their homeland or displaced within their province preparing to return home. We have some measure of confidence that the nightmarish scenes and gross violations of human rights in Kosovo are at an end and will not be replayed there soon.

Third, we see the unified, decisive action by NATO forces can repulse a ruthless dictator, protect and preserve the sanctity of human rights, and help stabilize the entire region.

Can anyone seriously question whether the threat to Macedonia or the Yugoslavia Republic of Montenegro is less tonight because of NATO's unwavering action against Milosevic and his henchmen? No one can doubt that the same could not be said had we fallen prey to the isolationist experts who coached appeasement.

In 1940, as the European continent was about to explode into a Second World War, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said of appeasement, no man can tame a tiger into a kitten by stroking it. There can be no appeasement with ruthlessness. There can be no reasoning with the incendiary bomb."

Milosevic's ruthless actions, his rejection of reasoning during the entire decade, left us little alternative but to confront him with force.

Mr. Speaker, let me again repeat, for the entire decade. This was not something that was sprung on the West. In fact, in my opinion, the West waited too long. But it is never too late to do the right thing.

□ 2100

With President Clinton, an extraordinarily courageous and forceful Prime Minister of Great Britain, and other leaders in NATO who obviously had in their own parliaments voices of doubt, voices of nonsupport, but notwithstanding that, they courageously stood as a NATO alliance to say that this kind of genocidal activity will not stand in the bosom of Europe.

Fourth, we see that the credibility of the United States has been enhanced throughout the world. As William Kristol and Robert Kagan wrote recently in the Weekly Standard, Mr. Speaker, as I am sure my colleagues well know, neither Mr. Kristol nor Mr. Kagan are known as spinmeisters for the Clinton administration, but they said this, the victory in Kosovo should

"send a message to would-be aggressors that . . . the United States and its allies can summon the will and the force to do them harm."

We have sent, I think, a very simple message to would-be aggressors in Europe and elsewhere. Do not do it. Do not do it. Do not do it. The West has the will, and the West clearly has the ability to confront you, stop you, defeat you, and drive you back. Do not do it.

If one takes aggressive hostile action against one's neighbors or one's own people, one will pay a very high price indeed.

Fifth, we see that a policy that recognizes and embraces basic human rights, decency, and democratic values is not just the right thing to do, but, Mr. Speaker, a strategic imperative. This policy, in this case, has been vindicated.

Syndicated columnist William Safire hit the nail on the head when he wrote recently, "International moral standards of conduct, long derided by geopoliticians, now have muscle."

How proud Americans ought to be of their President, this Congress, and their young men and women in the armed forces of the United States who align with those in NATO made that quote possible. That the cynics, the realpolitiks of the world who said that we did not have a strategic interest there, yes, of course, there was a moral imperative, but we did not have a strategic interest; therefore, perhaps as we did during the 1930s we ought to stand and simply watch, perhaps lament, perhaps wringing our hand, but not take action.

The Clinton administration with the support of this Congress not only unified, not always out front, but nevertheless united in our conviction that we would let this policy go forward and congratulate themselves for standing for what is right. Why? Because of NATO's unified unwavering action in Kosovo, we have made it clear that international wrongdoers can and will be confronted.

This does not mean we can intervene, Mr. Speaker, in every instance. As Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stated recently, and again I quote, "In coping with future crisis, the accumulated wisdom of the past will have to be weighed against the factors unique to that place and time."

Unfortunately, for Milosevic, Kosovo was the place and the time.

Finally, in closing let me state our efforts to secure peace in the Balkans are not over. We must keep the faith. We must keep our will. We must keep our focus. We must keep our ties to our allies strong and unbroken.

Milosevic has properly been branded as a war criminal by the International War Crimes Tribunal at the Hague. He, Mr. Speaker, and those who committed crimes allied with him or, very frankly, those who committed crimes on the other side must be held accountable.

Our policy goal now should be, not only his removal from office, but his

being held accountable for the atrocities for which he is clearly responsible. If we do not, Mr. Speaker, if we do not hold those who have committed war crimes accountable, then I fear we will see a continuation of the cycle of violence and revenge that has plagued the Balkans for so many years.

If, however, we hold accountable those responsible, then there will not be cause for the victims and their families and their successors to again strike out, to in vengeance, to restore the honor that has not been restored because we did not hold the criminals accountable.

We should encourage the Serbs to remove Milosevic and the brutal leaders who have caused this tragic suffering and misery. Serbia also must be clear about this. So long as Milosevic remains in power, it will not and should not receive financial assistance for its reconstruction. Humanitarian aid, yes. Reconstruction aid, economic aid, no.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of the Members of this House who has traveled to Macedonia and Albania, been to Pristina and Kosovo, and seen with my own eyes the devastation and the consequences of genocide. These images are seared into my memory forever.

We will not always be able to intervene to stop injustice wherever it occurs, but we have laid down a powerful precedent in Kosovo. Our credibility, as I said, earlier has been enhanced. NATO has been strengthened. A brutal dictator has been repulsed, and the cause for human rights has been advanced. If those are not good causes, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what are.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) who has himself been such a leader in this effort and who is ensured that the American public had the facts and were themselves focused on the objectives we sought, the means we used.

Parenthetically, let me say that we were extraordinarily lucky, the redress of the wrongs that were occurring, if they occur in the future, may not be as costless as this enterprise was. But having said that, the enterprise will be worth it.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his comments and for the leadership that he has shown on this issue. What a long ways we have come in a short period of time when, just a few short weeks ago, this Chamber by a 213-213 vote tied on whether or not to even continue to support the NATO air campaign in the region. Now we are on the precipice of peace breaking out in the region.

A while back, I had a chance to have a conversation with Elie Wiesel, one of the Nazi concentration camp survivors, one of the foremost experts on the Holocaust. I asked him what his thoughts were in regards to the NATO air campaign in the Balkans.

What he said I thought really crystallized the issue, for me at least, in which he said, "Listen, the only miser-

able consolation that those people in the Nazi concentration camps had during the Second World War was the belief that, if the Western democracies of the world knew what was going on, they would do everything possible to try to stop it, bombing the rail lines, bombing the crematoriums." But history later showed that the western leaders did know, but they did not do anything to try to stop it.

This time is different. This time the Western democracies know, and they are intervening. This time, in his opinion at least, he feels we are on the right side of history in this situation.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) who was also one of my colleagues who joined us on the trip to the Balkans, Albania and Macedonia just a few weeks ago.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I am one of those that took the opportunity to go to the region, to the Balkans, and take a firsthand look at what was occurring.

I will tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that I had an opportunity to go, not once, not twice, but three times into this region. In fact, on Easter Sunday, I was in Prague and had the opportunity to go to the NATO bunker that was recently admitted to the NATO alliance, the Czech Republic had made available.

That day that I was there, on Easter Sunday at that NATO bunker, the Czech Republic cleared 130 sorties to go through their airspace to bomb Yugoslavia. I mention that because it is very significant when we have heard over and over the last few weeks that, first of all, a bombing campaign would never work, a bombing campaign would not bring about the desired effect and the desired impact to force Milosevic to come to the peace table.

Interestingly enough, every time I heard that, it was being espoused normally by people that have never been on the receiving end of a bombing campaign or a mortar attack or any of those.

Having had the experience of Vietnam and having been involved in some of those attacks, I can tell my colleagues that there is nothing more taxing, more horrifying that makes one feel more helpless than being attacked by bombs or mortars.

So to those that were criticizing the strategy, I say it worked. It is something that we all have to recognize and give credit where credit is due to the President and to the whole NATO alliance.

We also heard over and over, what is our interest in the region? What kind of national interests could we possibly have? I think a number of my colleagues this evening have gone over that interest and that compelling and overwhelming obligation that we, as Americans, can take full pride in tonight and in the coming days that President Clinton took the tough stand, made the tough decisions, and

ultimately brought Milosevic to the peace table and provided us an opportunity to once more see how great we as a country and as a nation can be.

Even though over the past few weeks we have not all been in complete agreement, we have not all been satisfied that all the things that were happening and that were occurring were being done according to the strategy or according to the game plan, but one thing that we do know tonight and that we have known since Milosevic came to the peace table is that we have so many thousands of refugees that are grateful for the role that the United States and NATO played in giving them the opportunity to go back and regain what they had, go back and take hold of what we hope is the future, the rest of their lives in their home country, in their home turf.

We heard a lot of the pundits night after night after night telling the American people and the audience worldwide that the refugees that had left their homes would never want to go back. They were wrong. They were wrong, and they should admit it. Just like they were wrong about the air strategy and the bombing campaign that it would never work, it worked. They should admit it.

Part of the compelling story, part of what I hope is chronicled in this campaign and in this great humanitarian effort led by the United States and NATO is the tremendous impact that it had on many thousands of individuals of every size and every age and every description, many thousands of individuals that were forced to flee their homes.

I would ask the American people tonight to stop and reflect for a moment what would happen to them personally if they were to suffer this contend of trauma, a trauma that to us is unimaginable, to us it is incomprehensible because we cannot even begin to imagine what it would be like to be forced out of our homes and to be forced into the refugee camps and the conditions of which my colleagues and I had a first-hand look, and conditions that today are going to be resolved by allowing these refugees to go back to their homeland.

□ 2115

Mr. REYES. I am proud to be in the well of the House this evening to thank President Clinton and to thank the NATO alliance. Over and over in the past weeks we heard it would never hold together. It held together. It brought about the desired successful conclusion that is going to, I think, write yet another chapter in the great history of this country where we do not do things because they are easy, we do not do things because they are simple, but we do do things, no matter how difficult the task, because they are the right thing to do.

I am proud of the President, I am proud of our men and women in uniform, and I am proud of those of my colleagues that stood with our President.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by saying that, in the final analysis, someone had to stop Milosevic in Kosovo. And given the current geopolitical global lineup, that someone was us. I just hope and pray that for the sake of peace in the region, that what has started now will continue and we will see a lasting peace. And that our troops in the region, who are being asked to act as peacekeepers, will be able to do their jobs successfully, efficiently, and as quickly as possible so they can all return to their families safely.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending his daughter's high school graduation.

Mr. GILCHREST (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and June 23 on account of official business.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and June 23 on account of official business.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through noon on Thursday, June 24th on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROEMER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FORD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOLEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, on June 24.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today, June 23 and June 24.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 23, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2678. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—1999 Amendment to Cotton Board Rules and Regulations Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports [CN-99-002] received June 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2679. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown In California; Final Free and Reserve Percentages for 1998-99 Zante Currant Raisins [Docket No. FV99-989-3 FIR] received June 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2680. A letter from the Director, Test, Systems Engineering & Evaluation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of intent to obligate funds for out-of-cycle FY 1999 FCT projects and FY 2000 in-cycle FCT projects, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2350a(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2681. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report regarding the FY 1999 acquisition and support workforce reductions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2682. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of 40 CFR Part 70 Operating Permit Program; State of North Dakota [ND-001a; FRL-6360-3] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2683. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan; Colorado; Revisions Regarding Negligibly Reactive Volatile Organic Compounds and Other Regulatory Revisions [CO-001-0027a, CO-001-0028a, & CO-001-0033a; FRL-6358-6] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2684. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Control of VOC Emissions from Decorative Surfaces, Brake Shoe Coatings, Structural Steel Coatings, and Digital Imaging [MD-3039a; FRL-6357-5] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2685. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program [PA 133-4087; FRL 6354-9] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2686. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, South Coast Air Quality Management District [CA 187-150; FRL-6358-3] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2687. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Control of Emissions From Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators; State of Iowa [IA 070-1070a] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2688. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Louisiana [LA-51-1-7413a; FRL-6360-8] received June 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2689. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Texas [TX-108-1-7408a; FRL-6361-4] received June 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2690. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; 1990 NO_x Base Year Emission Inventory for the Philadelphia Ozone Nonattainment Area [PA121-4088a; FRL-6361-5] received June 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2691. A letter from the Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Access Charge Reform [CC Docket No. 96-45; CC Docket No. 96-262] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2692. A letter from the Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service [CC Docket No. 97-21; CC Docket No. 96-45] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2693. A letter from the Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service [CC Docket No. 96-45] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2694. A letter from the Governor, State of Kansas, transmitting a letter to President Clinton regarding the Roberts amendment in the Supplemental Appropriations bill now in conference committee; to the Committee on Commerce.

2695. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of the Secretary's determination and justification for authorizing the use in year 1999 of Economic Support Funds to provide a modest crowd-control training package for the Indonesian police in support of the June elections, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2261(a)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

2696. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, United States Information Agency, transmitting a report on U.S. Government-Sponsored International Exchanges and Training on a Review of the MESP and ATLAS Programs in South Africa; to the Committee on International Relations.

2697. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the 6-month period ending March 31, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2698. A letter from the Comptroller General, transmitting a listing of new investigations, audits, and evaluations; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2699. A letter from the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, transmitting a report prepared to clarify some of the statements in the Fourth Annual Report; to the Committee on Resources.

2700. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual report on the status of the United States Parole Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2701. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting a report on the methods that are used to implement and enforce the International Management code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention under Chapter IX of the Annex to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 216. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1658) to provide a more just and uniform procedure for Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes (Rept. 106-193). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GOSS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 217. Resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.J. Res. 33) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States (Rept. 106-194). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1653. A bill to approve a governing international fishery agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation (Rept. 106-195). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. REYNOLDS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 218. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2084) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. 106-196). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 2290. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on the chemical 2 Chloro Amino Toluene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2291. A bill to implement certain restrictions on purchases from Federal Prison Industries by the Secretary of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BACHUS:

H.R. 2292. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to repeal the housing guaranty program under that Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BARTON of Texas (for himself and Mr. STENHOLM):

H.R. 2293. A bill to reform the budget process; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BERKLEY (for herself, Mrs.

ROUKEMA, Ms. DELAUNO, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. FROST, Mr. BORSKI, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. WYNN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CARSON, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. WEINER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia):

H.R. 2294. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to help prevent osteoporosis; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 2295. A bill to terminate the participation of the Forest Service in the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program and to offset the revenues lost by such termination by prohibiting the use of appropriated funds to finance engineering support for sales of timber from National Forest System lands; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 2296. A bill to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide that the number of members on the legislature of the Virgin Islands and the number of such members constituting a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ENGLISH:

H.R. 2297. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ferroniobium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 2298. A bill to provide certain temporary employees with the same benefits as permanent employees; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 2299. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of

1974 to ensure proper treatment of temporary employees under employee benefit plans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOODLING (for himself, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. DELAY, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. TANCREDI, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. TALENT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. NORTHUP, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Ms. DUNN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BAKER, Mr. METCALF, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. STUMP, Mr. FORBES, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HAYES, Mr. CANON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. EWING, Mr. COOK, Mr. POMBO, Mr. TERRY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. HOSTETTLER):

H.R. 2300. A bill to allow a State to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of all its students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HAYWORTH (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COLLINS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. METCALF, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. NEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PITTS, Mr. RILEY, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STUMP, Mr. TALENT, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 2301. A bill to require Congress and the President to fulfill their constitutional duty to take personal responsibility for Federal laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HINCHEY:

H.R. 2302. A bill to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New York, as the "James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. LARSON (for himself, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KIND, Mr. WOLF, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts,

Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. WU, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. FROST, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KING, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. METCALF, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. STUMP, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FORBES, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. QUINN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. VENTO, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOFFEL, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. FILNER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MOORE, Ms. LEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BORSKI, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. NEY, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. HILL of Indiana, Ms. DANER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. EHRLICH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROGAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. TANCREDI, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SABO, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BASS, Mr. DIXON, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MICA, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. EWING, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BOYD, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WALSH, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GANSKE, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. PORTER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. HORN, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SHAW, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. REYES, Mr. ROEMER, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. CALLAHAN,

Mr. EVANS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. MOAKLEY, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. BALDACCIO, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. SKREEN):

H.R. 2303. A bill to direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut:

H.R. 2304. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers who maintain a self-insured health plan for their employees a credit against income tax for a portion of the cost paid for providing health coverage for their employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. WEYGAND, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. BROWN of California, Ms. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 2305. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to nonprofit community organizations for the development of open space on municipally owned vacant lots in urban areas; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mrs. CLAYTON):

H.R. 2306. A bill to amend the qualification requirements for serving with the Census Monitoring Board; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. MARKEY):

H.R. 2307. A bill to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, as the "THOMAS J. Brown Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. TANNER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LEE, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. REYES, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. PICKERING, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. COOK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCINTOSH, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HORN, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. HINCHEY):

H.R. 2308. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the deduction for computer donations to schools and public libraries and to allow a tax credit for donated computers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 2309. A bill to require group health plans and health insurance issuers to provide independent review of adverse coverage determinations; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SUNUNU:

H.R. 2310. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain ion-exchange resin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2311. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain ion-exchange resin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2312. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain ion-exchange resin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TRAFICANT:

H.R. 2313. A bill to restrict United States assistance for reconstruction efforts in Kosovo to United States-produced articles and services; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. NEY, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. HILLEARY, and Mr. BRYANT):

H.R. 2314. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to exclude beverage alcohol compounds emitted from aging warehouses from the definition of volatile organic compounds; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H. Con. Res. 138. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the adverse impact of the current administration Medicare payment policy for noninvasive positive pressure ventilators on individuals with severe respiratory diseases; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COOK, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 139. Concurrent resolution recognizing the success of lay person CPR training in increasing the rate of survival of cardiac arrest and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the need for such training; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. CONYERS):

H. Con. Res. 140. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that Haiti should conduct free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. FROST, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. WU, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. HALL of Ohio):

H. Con. Res. 141. Concurrent resolution celebrating One America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. DICKS introduced a bill (H.R. 2315) for the relief of James Mervyn Salmon; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 36: Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

H.R. 53: Mr. KUYKENALL.

H.R. 65: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 110: Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 116: Mr. BISHOP.

H.R. 125: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 131: Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO.

H.R. 135: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 225: Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. JOHN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mrs. MINK of Hawaii.

H.R. 226: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. BARCIA.

H.R. 239: Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. SAWYER, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 303: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MASCARA, and Mr. TRAFICANT.

H.R. 363: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 371: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RAHALL, and Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

H.R. 372: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 423: Mr. ENGLISH.

H.R. 483: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 486: Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 518: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky and Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 527: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 531: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. PHELPS.

H.R. 534: Mr. SKELTON and Mr. DICKEY.

H.R. 541: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 588: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 637: Mr. WU.

H.R. 670: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. LARSON.

H.R. 708: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. STUMP, and Mr. QUINN.

H.R. 721: Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 732: Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 739: Mr. GANSKE, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. MOORE, Ms. LEE, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mrs. MINK of Hawaii.

H.R. 740: Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. LEE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 750: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut.

H.R. 761: Mr. GARY MILLER of California.

H.R. 776: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 783: Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 784: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 828: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.

H.R. 860: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 872: Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. LUTHER, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 895: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. GONZALES.

H.R. 903: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 922: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 933: Mr. MCNULTY and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 961: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. NADLER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 976: Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Ms. WOOLEY.

H.R. 977: Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 985: Mr. BURR of North Carolina.

H.R. 1041: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1063: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 1068: Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. DEUTSCH, and Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 1071: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LEE, and Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut.

H.R. 1079: Mr. STRICKLAND and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 1082: Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri.

H.R. 1083: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1095: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GEJDENSON, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. WEINER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 1102: Mr. CRANE, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1108: Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 1109: Mr. BARCIA.

H.R. 1130: Ms. WOOLEY.

H.R. 1175: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. FORD, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. KING, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. OLVER, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. VENTO.

H.R. 1214: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1222: Mr. CHAMBLISS and Mr. OBERSTAR.

H.R. 1237: Mr. GOSS.

H.R. 1244: Mr. TERRY and Mr. ROEMER.

H.R. 1248: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1250: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1256: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. SWEENEY.

H.R. 1276: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1281: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington and Mr. RILEY.

H.R. 1286: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1292: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1293: Ms. SANCHEZ and Mr. BORSKI.

H.R. 1304: Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MASCARA, and Mr. SCOTT.

H.R. 1315: Mr. ROGAN.

H.R. 1355: Mr. STUPAK.

H.R. 1358: Mrs. BONO and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1366: Mr. POMBO, Mr. BEREUTER, and Mr. SHOWS.

H.R. 1381: Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, and Mr. BOEHNER.

H.R. 1399: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1433: Mr. TANNER and Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 1469: Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 1485: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1505: Mr. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 1568: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. REYES, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BUYER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. DEMINT, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1592: Mr. ISAKSON and Mr. STEARNS.

H.R. 1595: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 1598: Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. COLLINS, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. NEY.

H.R. 1644: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. OBEY, Mr. DICKS, Mr. WEINER, Ms. CARSON, and Mr. GREENWOOD.

H.R. 1691: Mr. COBURN, Mr. HALL of Ohio, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H.R. 1702: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LEE, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 1739: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 1764: Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 1812: Mr. ACKERMAN.
 H.R. 1814: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. TANNER, Mr. STUMP, Mr. GOODE, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. COMBEST, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 1824: Mr. HILL of Montana.
 H.R. 1827: Mr. SCHAFER and Mr. LAZIO.
 H.R. 1838: Mr. EHRlich, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. BLILEY, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CRANE, Mr. HEFLEY, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
 H.R. 1842: Mr. REYES, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. SKELTON.
 H.R. 1861: Mr. NUSSLE.
 H.R. 1862: Mr. HOLDEN.
 H.R. 1871: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO.
 H.R. 1874: Mr. METCALF and Mr. SOUDER.
 H.R. 1884: Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO.
 H.R. 1932: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 1967: Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 1990: Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. MCINNIS.
 H.R. 2028: Mr. ARMEY and Mr. McNULTY.
 H.R. 2038: Mr. SHAW.
 H.R. 2056: Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. COOK, Mr. SAXTON, and Mr. SHOWS.
 H.R. 2066: Mr. DICKEY, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. COOKSEY.
 H.R. 2077: Mr. OLVER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. WEXLER.
 H.R. 2096: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. OWENS, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H.R. 2116: Mr. COOKSEY and Mr. RODRIQUEZ.
 H.R. 2136: Mr. CHAMBLISS and Mr. CALAHAN.
 H.R. 2175: Mr. FROST.
 H.R. 2216: Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HOBSON, Mrs. NORTHUP, and Mr. KASICH.
 H.R. 2243: Mr. CAMPBELL.
 H.R. 2260: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 2265: Mr. BONIOR, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. PAUL, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. STARK, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BORSKI, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 2282: Mr. SHOWS.
 H.R. 2283: Mr. GILCHREST and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
 H.J. Res. 35: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.J. Res. 43: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.J. Res. 55: Mr. SMITH of Michigan.
 H. Con. Res. 60: Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Ms. LEE, and Mr. DAVIS of Florida.
 H. Con. Res. 74: Ms. KILPATRICK.
 H. Con. Res. 77: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon and Mr. GEJDENSON.
 H. Con. Res. 107: Mr. NORWOOD.
 H. Con. Res. 113: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H. Con. Res. 124: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H. Con. Res. 130: Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. CLAYTON, and Mr. STUPAK.
 H. Res. 89: Mr. FORBES.
 H. Res. 169: Mr. LUTHER.
 H. Res. 187: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. McNULTY, and Mr. FARR of California.
 H. Res. 211: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. JENKINS, and Mr. GIBBONS.
 H. Res. 212: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 804: Mr. FOLEY.
 H.R. 815: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 987: Mr. TRAFICANT.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. GILMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 6, line 5 insert before the semicolon the following:

“; was not willfully blind to such conduct, and did not demonstrate a deliberate indifference to such conduct”.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. GILMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 6, line 5 insert before the semicolon the following:

“; was not willfully blind to such conduct, or did not consent or was not privy to such conduct”.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. GILMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 15, insert after line 8 the following:

SEC. 7. CIVIL FORFEITURE FOR PASSPORT AND VISA RELATED OFFENSES.

Section 981 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) Any property, real or personal—
 “(i) used, or intended to be used, in committing or facilitating the commission of, or
 “(ii) constituting, derived from, or traceable to any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, from,

an offense or conspiracy to commit an offense under section 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, or 1546 of this title of an offense, or conspiracy to commit an offense under section 1028 of this title, if either conspiracy or offense was committed in connection with passport or visa issuance.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

“(C) subject to forfeiture to the United States under subsection (a)(1)(G) of this section in a case investigated by the Secretary of State may be seized by the Secretary of State.”;

(3) by striking “the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Postal Service” each place it appears (other than in subsection (b)(1)(C)) and inserting “the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postal Service, or the Secretary of State”;

(4) in subsection (i), by striking “the Attorney General or the Secretary of the Treasury” each place it appears and inserting “Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary of State”;

(5) in subsection (j)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) the term ‘Secretary of State’ means the Secretary of State or the Secretary’s delegate.”; and

(6) by adding after subsection (j) the following:

“(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the discretion of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, property forfeited pursuant to a law enforced or administered by a Department of State law enforcement component may be deemed forfeited pursuant to a law enforced or administered by a Department of Justice law enforcement component.”.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 2, line 12, strike “(A)”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 8.

Page 15, insert after line 8 the following:

SEC. 7. CHALLENGES TO ADMINISTRATIVE FORFEITURES.

Section 981 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) CHALLENGES TO ADMINISTRATIVE FORFEITURES.—

(1) Any motion to set aside a declaration of forfeiture entered pursuant to section 609 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1609), as incorporated by subsection (d), must be filed not later than 2 years after the entry of the declaration of forfeiture. Such motion shall be granted if—

“(A) the moving party had an ownership or possessory interest in the forfeited property, and the Government failed to take reasonable steps to provide such party with notice of the forfeiture; and

“(B) the moving party did not have actual notice of the seizure within sufficient time to file a claim within the time period provided by law.

“(2) If the court grants a motion made under paragraph (1), it shall set aside the declaration of forfeiture as to the moving party’s interest pending forfeiture proceedings in accordance with section 602 et seq. of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1602 et seq.), which proceedings shall be instituted within 60 days of the entry of the order granting the motion.

“(3) If, at the time a motion made under this paragraph (1) is granted, the forfeited property has been disposed of by the Government in accordance with law, the Government shall institute forfeiture proceedings under paragraph (2) against a substitute sum of money equal to the value of the forfeited property at the time it was disposed of, plus interest.

“(4) The institution of forfeiture proceedings under paragraph (2) shall not be barred by the expiration of the statute of limitations under section 621 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1621) if the original publication of notice was initiated before the expiration of such limitations period.

“(5) A motion made under this subsection shall be the exclusive means of obtaining judicial review of a declaration of forfeiture entered by a seizing agency.

“(6) This subsection shall apply to any administrative forfeiture under this section, and to any administrative forfeiture under the Controlled Substances Act, or under any other provision of law that incorporates the provisions of the customs laws.”

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 4, strike line 23 and all that follows through line 16 on page 5 and redesignate paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7), respectively.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 5, line 20, strike “by clear and convincing evidence” and insert “by a preponderance of the evidence”.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 5, strike line 22 and all that follows through line 5 on page 9. Page 15, after line 8 insert the following:

SEC. 7. INNOCENT OWNER DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 982 the following:

§ 983. Innocent owners

"(a) An innocent owner's interest in property shall be forfeited in any judicial action under any civil forfeiture provision of this title, the Controlled Substances Act, or the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952.

"(b)(1) With respect to a property interest in existence at the time the illegal act giving rise to forfeiture took place, a person is an innocent owner if the person establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence—

"(A) that the person did not know that the property was being used or was likely to be used in the commission of such illegal act, or

"(B) that upon learning that the property was being used or was likely to be used in the commission of such illegal act, the person promptly did all that reasonably could be expected to terminate or to prevent such use of the property.

"(2) With respect to a property interest acquired after the act, giving rise to the forfeiture, took place, a person is an innocent owner if the person establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the person acquired the property as a bona fide purchaser for value who at the time of the purchase did not know and was reasonably without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture. A purchaser is 'reasonably without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture' if, in light of the circumstances, the purchaser did all that reasonably could be expected to ensure that he or she was not acquiring property that was subject to forfeiture.

"(3) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, no person may assert an ownership interest under this section in contraband or other property that it is illegal to possess. In addition, except as set forth in paragraph (2), no person may assert an ownership interest under this section in the illegal proceeds of a criminal act, irrespective of State property law.

"(c) For the purposes of this section—

"(1) an 'owner' is a person with an ownership interest in the specific property sought to be forfeited, including but not limited to a lien, mortgage, recorded security device or valid assignment of an ownership interest. An owner does not include—

"(A) a person with only a general unsecured interest in, or claim against, the property or estate of another person;

"(B) a bailee, unless the bailor is identified, and the bailor has authorized the bailee to claim in the forfeiture proceeding, pursuant to the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty and Maritime Claims;

"(C) a nominee who exercises no dominion or control over the property; or

"(D) a beneficiary of a constructive trust; and

"(2) a person shall be considered to have known that his or her property was being used or was likely to be used in the commission of an illegal act if the government establishes the existence of facts and circumstances that should have created a reasonable suspicion that the property was being or would be used for an illegal purpose.

"(d) If the court determines, in accordance with this section, that an innocent owner has a partial interest in property otherwise subject to forfeiture, or a joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety in such property, the court shall enter an appropriate order—

"(1) serving the property;

"(2) transferring the property to the government with a provision that the government compensate the innocent owner to the extent of his or her ownership interest once a final order of forfeiture has been entered and the property has been reduced to liquid assets, or if neither (1) or (2) is reasonably practical under all of the circumstances; and

"(3) permitting the innocent owner to retain the property subject to a lien in favor of the government to the extent of the forfeitable interest in the property. To effectuate the purposes of this subsection, a joint tenancy or tenancy by the entireties shall be converted to a tenancy in common by order of the court, irrespective of State law."

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 9, strike line 6 and all that follows through line 2 on page 11.

Page 15, insert after line 8 the following:

SEC. 7. RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY.

Section 981 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding the following at the end:

"(k)(1) SUPPRESSION OF EVIDENCE.—A party with standing to challenge a seizure and forfeiture under this section may move to suppress the use of the property as evidence on the ground that the Government lacked probable cause at the time of the seizure. Suppression of the property as evidence shall not affect the right of the Government to proceed with a forfeiture action based on independently derived evidence.

"(2) RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY.—A person with standing to challenge the forfeiture of property seized under this section may file a motion for the return of the property in the manner described in Rule 41(e), Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure. If such motion is filed, the court shall conduct a hearing within 90 days and shall order the release of the property, pending trial on the forfeiture and the entry of judgment, unless—

"(A) the Government establishes probable cause to believe that the property is subject to forfeiture, based on all information available to the Government at the time of the hearing;

"(B) the Government has filed a civil forfeiture complaint against the property, and a magistrate judge has determined there is probable cause for the issuance of a warrant of arrest in rem pursuant to the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty and Maritime Claims;

"(C) a grand jury has returned an indictment that includes an allegation that the property is subject to criminal forfeiture;

"(D) the person filing the motion had notice of the Government's intent to forfeit the property administratively pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1608, and failed to file a claim to the property within the specified time period;

"(E) the property is contraband or other property that the moving party may not legally possess; or

"(F) the property is needed as evidence in a criminal investigation or prosecution."

"(3) COMPLAINT; MOTION TO DISMISS.—A party with standing to challenge a forfeiture under this section may move to dismiss the complaint for failure to comply with Rule E(2) of the Supplemental Rules, or on any other ground set forth in Rule 12(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Notwithstanding the provision of section 615 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1615), a party may not move to dismiss the complaint on the ground that the evidence in the possession of the Government at the time it filed its complaint was insufficient to establish the forfeitability of the property.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 14, strike line 20 and all that follows through line 8 on page 15.

Page 15, insert after line 8 the following:

SEC. 6. APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Unless otherwise specified in this Act, the amendments made by this Act apply to forfeiture proceedings com-

menced on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE FORFEITURES.—The amendments in this Act relating to seizures and administrative forfeitures shall apply to seizures and forfeitures occurring on or after the 60th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CIVIL JUDICIAL FORFEITURES.—The amendments in this Act relating to judicial procedures applicable once a civil forfeiture complaint is filed by the Government shall apply to all cases in which the forfeiture complaint is filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

AMENDMENT NO. 10: Page 15, insert after line 8 the following:

SEC. 8. FUGITIVE DISENTITLEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 163 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting the following at the end.

"§ 2467. Fugitive disentitlement

"Any person who, in order to avoid criminal prosecution, purposely leaves the jurisdiction of the United States, declines to enter or re-enter the United States to submit to its jurisdiction, or otherwise evades the jurisdiction of the court where a criminal case is pending against the person, may not use the resources of the courts of the United States in furtherance of a claim in any related civil forfeiture action."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 163 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting the following at the end:

"2467. Fugitive disentitlement".

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HUTCHINSON

[Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute]

AMENDMENT NO. 11: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Creation of general rules relating to civil forfeiture proceedings.
- Sec. 3. Compensation for damage to seized property.
- Sec. 4. Prejudgment and postjudgment interest.

SEC. 2. CREATION OF GENERAL RULES RELATING TO CIVIL FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting the following new section after section 982:

"§ 983. Civil forfeiture procedures

"(a) ADMINISTRATIVE FORFEITURES.—(1)(A) In any nonjudicial civil forfeiture proceeding under a civil forfeiture statute, with respect to which the agency conducting a seizure of property must send written notice of the seizure under section 607(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1607(a)), such notice together with information on the applicable procedures shall be sent not later than 60 days after the seizure to each party known to the seizing agency at the time of the seizure to have an ownership or possessory interest, including a lienholder's interest, in the seized article. If a party's identity or interest is not determined until after the seizure but is determined before a declaration of forfeiture is entered, such written notice and information shall be sent to such interested party not later than 60 days after the seizing agency's determination of the identity of the party or the party's interest.

“(B) If the Government does not provide notice of a seizure of property in accordance with subparagraph (A), it shall return the property pending the giving of such notice.

“(2) The Government may apply to a Federal magistrate judge (as defined in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure) in any district where venue for a forfeiture action would lie under section 1355(b) of title 28 for an extension of time in which to comply with paragraph (1)(A). Such an extension shall be granted based on a showing of good cause.

“(3) A person with an ownership or possessory interest in the seized article who failed to file a claim within the time period prescribed in subsection (b) may, on motion made not later than 2 years after the date of final publication of notice of seizure of the property, move to set aside a declaration of forfeiture entered pursuant to section 609 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1609). Such motion shall be granted if—

“(A) the Government failed to take reasonable steps to provide the claimant with notice of the forfeiture; and

“(B) the person otherwise had no actual notice of the seizure within sufficient time to enable the person to file a timely claim under subsection (b).

“(4) If the court grants a motion made under paragraph (3), it shall set aside the declaration of forfeiture as to the moving party's interest pending forfeiture proceedings in accordance with section 602 et seq. of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1602 et seq.), which proceedings shall be instituted within 60 days of the entry of the order granting the motion.

“(5) If, at the time a motion under this subsection is granted, the forfeited property has been disposed of by the Government in accordance with law, the Government shall institute forfeiture proceedings under paragraph (4). The property which will be the subject of the forfeiture proceedings instituted under paragraph (4) shall be a sum of money equal to the value of the forfeited property at the time it was disposed of plus interest.

“(6) The institution of forfeiture proceedings under paragraph (4) shall not be barred by the expiration of the statute of limitations under section 621 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1621) if the original publication of notice was completed before the expiration of such limitations period.

“(7) A motion made under this subsection shall be the exclusive means of obtaining judicial review of a declaration of forfeiture entered by a seizing agency.

“(b) FILING A CLAIM.—(1) Any person claiming such seized property may file a claim with the appropriate official after the seizure.

“(2) A claim under paragraph (1) may not be filed later than 30 days after—

“(A) the date of final publication of notice of seizure; or

“(B) in the case of a person receiving written notice, the date that such notice is received.

“(3) The claim shall set forth the nature and extent of the claimant's interest in the property.

“(c) FILING A COMPLAINT.—(1) In cases where property has been seized or restrained by the Government and a claim has been filed, the Attorney General shall file a complaint for forfeiture in the appropriate court in the manner set forth in the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims not later than 90 days after the claim was filed, or return the property pending the filing of a complaint. By mutual agreement between the Government and the claimants, the 90-day filing requirement may be waived.

“(2) The Government may apply to a Federal magistrate judge (as defined in the Fed-

eral Rules of Criminal Procedure) in any district where venue for a forfeiture action would lie under section 1355(b) of title 28 for an extension of time in which to comply with paragraph (1). Such an extension shall be granted based on a showing of good cause.

“(3) Upon the filing of a civil complaint, the claimant shall file a claim and answer in accordance with the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims.

“(d) APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL.—(1) If the person filing a claim is financially unable to obtain representation by counsel and requests that counsel be appointed, the court may appoint counsel to represent that person with respect to the claim. In determining whether to appoint counsel to represent the person filing the claim, the court shall take into account—

“(A) the nature and value of the property subject to forfeiture, including the hardship to the claimant from the loss of the property seized, compared to the expense of appointing counsel;

“(B) the claimant's standing to contest the forfeiture; and

“(C) whether the claim appears to be made in good faith or to be frivolous.

“(2) The court shall set the compensation for that representation, which shall be the equivalent to that provided for court-appointed representation under section 3006A of this title, and to pay such cost, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary as an addition to the funds otherwise appropriated for the appointment of counsel under such section.

“(3) The determination of whether to appoint counsel under this subsection shall be made following a hearing at which the Government shall have an opportunity to present evidence and examine the claimant. The testimony of the claimant at such hearing shall not be admitted in any other proceeding except in accordance with the rules which govern the admissibility of testimony adduced in a hearing on a motion to suppress evidence. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the admission of any evidence that may be obtained in the course of civil discovery in the forfeiture proceeding or through any other lawful investigative means.

“(e) BURDEN OF PROOF.—In all suits or actions brought for the civil forfeiture of any property, the burden of proof at trial is on the United States to establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the property is subject to forfeiture. If the Government proves that the property is subject to forfeiture, the claimant shall have the burden of establishing any affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence.

“(f) INNOCENT OWNERS.—(1) An innocent owner's interest in property shall not be forfeited in any civil forfeiture action.

“(2) With respect to a property interest in existence at the time the illegal conduct giving rise to the forfeiture took place, the term ‘innocent owner’ means an owner who—

“(A) did not know of the conduct giving rise to the forfeiture; or

“(B) upon learning of the conduct giving rise to the forfeiture, did all that reasonably could be expected under the circumstances to terminate such use of the property.

“(3)(A) With respect to a property interest acquired after the conduct giving rise to the forfeiture has taken place, the term ‘innocent owner’ means a person who, at the time that person acquired the interest in the property, was a bona fide purchaser for value and was at the time of the purchase reasonably without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture.

“(B) Except as provided in paragraph (4), where the property subject to forfeiture is real property, and the claimant uses the

property as his or her primary residence and is the spouse or minor child of the person who committed the offense giving rise to the forfeiture, an otherwise valid innocent owner claim shall not be denied on the ground that the claimant acquired the interest in the property—

“(i) in the case of a spouse, through dissolution of marriage or by operation of law, or

“(ii) in the case of a minor child, as an inheritance upon the death of a parent,

and not through a purchase. However, the claimant must establish, in accordance with subparagraph (A), that at the time of the acquisition of the property interest, the claimant was reasonably without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture, and was an owner of the property, as defined in paragraph (6).

“(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, no person may assert an ownership interest under this section—

“(A) in contraband or other property that it is illegal to possess; or

“(B) in the illegal proceeds of a criminal act unless such person was a bona fide purchaser for value who was reasonably without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture.

“(5) For the purposes of paragraph (2) of this subsection a person does all that reasonably can be expected if the person takes all steps that a reasonable person would take in the circumstances to prevent or terminate the illegal use of the person's property. There is a rebuttable presumption that a property owner took all the steps that a reasonable person would take if the property owner—

“(A) gave timely notice to an appropriate law enforcement agency of information that led to the claimant to know the conduct giving rise to a forfeiture would occur or has occurred; and

“(B) in a timely fashion, revoked permission for those engaging in such conduct to use the property or took reasonable steps in consultation with a law enforcement agency to discourage or prevent the illegal use of the property.

The person is not required to take extraordinary steps that the person reasonably believes would be likely to subject the person to physical danger.

“(6) As used in this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘civil forfeiture statute’ means any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense.

“(B) the term ‘owner’ means a person with an ownership interest in the specific property sought to be forfeited, including a lien, mortgage, recorded security device, or valid assignment of an ownership interest. Such term does not include—

“(i) a person with only a general unsecured interest in, or claim against, the property or estate of another;

“(ii) a bailee unless the bailor is identified and the bailee shows a colorable legitimate interest in the property seized; or

“(iii) a nominee who exercises no dominion or control over the property;

“(C) a person shall be considered to have known that the person's property was being used or was likely to be used in the commission of an illegal act if the person was willfully blind.

“(7) If the court determines, in accordance with this subsection, that an innocent owner had a partial interest in property otherwise subject to forfeiture, or a joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety in such property, the court shall enter an appropriate order—

"(A) severing the property;

"(B) transferring the property to the Government with a provision that the Government compensate the innocent owner to the extent of his or her ownership interest once a final order of forfeiture has been entered and the property has been reduced to liquid assets; or

"(C) permitting the innocent owner to retain the property subject to a lien in favor of the Government, to the extent of the forfeitable interest in the property, that will permit the Government to realize its forfeitable interest if the property is transferred to another person.

To effectuate the purposes of this subsection, a joint tenancy or tenancy by the entireties shall be converted to a tenancy in common by order of the court, irrespective of state law.

"(8) An innocent owner defense under this subsection is an affirmative defense.

"(g) MOTION TO SUPPRESS SEIZED EVIDENCE.—At any time after a claim and answer are filed in a judicial forfeiture proceeding, a claimant with standing to contest the seizure of the property may move to suppress the fruits of the seizure in accordance with the normal rules regarding the suppression of illegally seized evidence. If the claimant prevails on such motion, the fruits of the seizure shall not be admitted into evidence as to that claimant at the forfeiture trial. However, a finding that evidence should be suppressed shall not bar the forfeiture of the property based on evidence obtained independently before or after the seizure.

"(h) USE OF HEARSAY AT PRE-TRIAL HEARINGS.—At any pre-trial hearing under this section in which the governing standard is probable cause, the court may accept and consider hearsay otherwise inadmissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence.

"(i) STIPULATIONS.—Notwithstanding the claimant's offer to stipulate to the forfeitability of the property, the Government shall be entitled to present evidence to the finder of fact on that issue before the claimant presents any evidence in support of any affirmative defense.

"(j) PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE.—The court, before or after the filing of a forfeiture complaint and on the application of the Government, may—

"(1) enter any restraining order or injunction in the manner set forth in section 413(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853(e));

"(2) require the execution of satisfactory performance bonds;

"(3) create receiverships;

"(4) appoint conservators, custodians, appraisers, accountants or trustees; or

"(5) take any other action to seize, secure, maintain, or preserve the availability of property subject to forfeiture under this section.

"(k) EXCESSIVE FINES.—(1) At the conclusion of the trial and following the entry of a verdict of forfeiture, or upon the entry of summary judgment for the Government as to the forfeitability of the property, the claimant may petition the court to determine whether the excessive fines clause of the Eighth Amendment applies, and if so, whether forfeiture is excessive. The claimant shall have the burden of establishing that a forfeiture is excessive by a preponderance of the evidence at a hearing conducted in the manner provided in Rule 43(e), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by the Court without a jury. If the court determines that the forfeiture is excessive, it shall adjust the forfeiture to the extent necessary to avoid the Constitutional violation.

"(2) The claimant may not object to the forfeiture on Eighth Amendment grounds

other than as set forth in paragraph (1), except that a claimant may, at any time, file a motion for summary judgment asserting that even if the property is subject to forfeiture, the forfeiture would be excessive. The court shall rule on such motion for summary judgment only after the Government has had an opportunity—

"(A) to conduct full discovery on the Eighth Amendment issue; and

"(B) to place such evidence as may be relevant to the excessive fines determination before the court in affidavits or at an evidentiary hearing.

"(l) PRE-DISCOVERY STANDARD.—In a judicial proceeding on the forfeiture of property, the Government shall not be required to establish the forfeitability of the property before the completion of discovery pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, particularly Rule 56(f) as may be ordered by the court or if no discovery is ordered before trial.

"(m) APPLICABILITY.—The procedures set forth in this section apply to any civil forfeiture action brought under any provision of this title, the Controlled Substances Act, or the Immigration and Naturalization Act."

(b) RELEASE OF PROPERTY.—Chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to add the following section after section 984:

"§985. Release of property to avoid hardship

"(a) A person who has filed a claim under section 983 is entitled to release pursuant to subsection (b) of seized property pending trial if—

"(1) the claimant has a possessory interest in the property sufficient to establish standing to contest forfeiture and has filed a non-frivolous claim on the merits of the forfeiture action;

"(2) the claimant has sufficient ties to the community to provide assurance that the property will be available at the time of the trial;

"(3) the continued possession by the United States Government pending the final disposition of forfeiture proceedings will cause substantial hardship to the claimant, such as preventing the claimant from working, leaving the claimant homeless, or preventing the functioning of a business;

"(4) the claimant's hardship outweighs the risk that the property will be destroyed, damaged, lost, concealed, diminished in value or transferred if it is returned to the claimant during the pendency of the proceeding; and

"(5) none of the conditions set forth in subsection (c) applies;

"(b)(1) The claimant may make a request for the release of property under this subsection at any time after the claim is filed. If, at the time the request is made, the seizing agency has not yet referred the claim to a United States Attorney pursuant to section 608 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1608), the request may be filed with the seizing agency; otherwise the request must be filed with the United States Attorney to whom the claim was referred. In either case, the request must set forth the basis on which the requirements of subsection (a)(1) are met.

"(2) If the seizing agency, or the United States Attorney, as the case may be, denies the request or fails to act on the request within 20 days, the claimant may file the request as a motion for the return of seized property in the district court for the district represented by the United States Attorney to whom the claim was referred, or if the claim has not yet been referred, in the district court that issued the seizure warrant for the property, or if no warrant was issued, in any district court that would have jurisdiction to consider a motion for the return of

seized property under Rule 41(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The motion must set forth the basis on which the requirements of subsection (a) have been met and the steps the claimant has taken to secure the release of the property from the appropriate official.

"(3) The district court must act on a motion made pursuant to this subsection within 30 days or as soon thereafter as practicable, and must grant the motion if the claimant establishes that the requirements of subsection (a) have been met. If the court grants the motion, the court must enter any order necessary to ensure that the value of the property is maintained while the forfeiture action is pending, including permitting the inspection, photographing and inventory of the property, and the court may take action in accordance with Rule E of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Cases. The Government is authorized to place a lien against the property or to file a lis pendens to ensure that it is not transferred to another person.

"(4) If property returned to the claimant under this section is lost, stolen, or diminished in value, any insurance proceeds shall be paid to the United States and such proceeds shall be subject to forfeiture in place of the property originally seized.

"(c) This section shall not apply if the seized property—

"(1) is contraband, currency or other monetary instrument, or electronic funds unless such currency or other monetary instrument or electronic funds constitutes the assets of a business which has been seized,

"(2) is evidence of a violation of the law,

"(3) by reason of design or other characteristic, is particularly suited for use in illegal activities; or

"(4) is likely to be used to commit additional criminal acts if returned to the claimant."

"(d) Once a motion for the release of property under this section is filed, the person filing the motion may request that the motion be transferred to another district where venue for the forfeiture action would lie under section 1355(b) of title 28 pursuant to the change of venue provisions in section 1404 of title 28."

(c) CHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The chapter analysis for chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 982 the following:

"983. Civil forfeiture procedures"; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 984 the following:

"985. Release of property to avoid hardship".

(f) CIVIL FORFEITURE OF PROCEEDS.—Section 981(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C) by inserting before the period the following: "or any offense constituting 'specified unlawful activity' as defined in section 1956(c)(7) of this title or a conspiracy to commit such offense"; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (E).

(d) UNIFORM DEFINITION OF PROCEEDS.—Section 981(a) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by subsection (c), is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "gross receipts" and "gross proceeds" wherever those terms appear and inserting "proceeds"; and

(B) by adding the following after paragraph (1):

"(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'proceeds' means property of any kind obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of the commission of the offense giving rise to forfeiture, and any property traceable thereto, and is not limited to the net gain or profit realized from the commission of the offense. In a case involving the forfeiture of

proceeds of a fraud or false claim under paragraph (1)(C) involving billing for goods or services part of which are legitimate and part of which are not legitimate, the court shall allow the claimant a deduction from the forfeiture for the amount obtained in exchange for the legitimate goods or services. In a case involving goods or services provided by a health care provider, such goods or services are not 'legitimate' if they were unnecessary.

"(3) For purposes of the provisions of subparagraphs (B) through (H) of paragraph (1) which provide for the forfeiture of proceeds of an offense or property traceable thereto, where the proceeds have been commingled with or invested in real or personal property, only the portion of such property derived from the proceeds shall be regarded as property traceable to the forfeitable proceeds. Where the proceeds of the offense have been invested in real or personal property that has appreciated in value, whether the relationship of the property to the proceeds is too attenuated to support the forfeiture of such property shall be determined in accordance with the excessive fines clause of the Eighth Amendment."

SEC. 3. COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO SEIZED PROPERTY.

(a) TORT CLAIMS ACT.—Section 2680(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "law-enforcement" and inserting "law enforcement"; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: "except that the provisions of this chapter and section 1346(b) of this title do apply to any claim based on the destruction, injury, or loss of goods, merchandise, or other property, while in the possession of any officer of customs or excise or any other law enforcement officer, if the property was seized for the purpose of forfeiture under any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense but the interest of the claimant is not forfeited".

(b) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a claim that cannot be settled under chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, the Attorney General may settle, for not more than \$50,000 in any case, a claim for damage to, or loss of, privately owned property caused by an investigative or law enforcement officer (as defined in section 2680(h) of title 28, United States Code) who is employed by the Department of Justice acting within the scope of his or her employment.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Attorney General may not pay a claim under paragraph (1) that—

(A) is presented to the Attorney General more than 1 year after it occurs; or

(B) is presented by an officer or employee of the United States Government and arose within the scope of employment.

SEC. 4. PREJUDGMENT AND POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST.

Section 2465 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "Upon"; and

(2) adding at the end the following:

"(b) INTEREST.—

"(1) POST-JUDGMENT.—Upon entry of judgment for the claimant in any proceeding to condemn or forfeit property seized or arrested under any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense, the United States shall be liable for post-judgment interest as set forth in section 1961 of this title.

"(2) PRE-JUDGMENT.—The United States shall not be liable for prejudgment interest in a proceeding under any provision of Fed-

eral law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense, except that in cases involving currency, other negotiable instruments, or the proceeds of an interlocutory sale, the United States shall disgorge to the claimant any funds representing—

"(A) interest actually paid to the United States from the date of seizure or arrest of the property that resulted from the investment of the property in an interest-bearing account or instrument; and

"(B) for any period during which no interest is actually paid, an imputed amount of interest that such currency, instruments, or proceeds would have earned at the rate described in section 1961.

"(3) LIMITATION ON OTHER PAYMENTS.—The United States shall not be required to disgorge the value of any intangible benefits nor make any other payments to the claimant not specifically authorized by this subsection."

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HYDE

AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 8, line 10, redesignate paragraph (8) as paragraph (9), and insert after line 9 the following:

"(8) When a State or local law enforcement agency participated directly in the seizure or forfeiture of property forfeited under any civil forfeiture statute, that part of the property to be transferred to any State and local entities shall be distributed according to the rules set forth in that State's law or Constitution as to property forfeited under the State forfeiture law.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. HYDE

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 11, strike line 3 and all that follows through line 3 on page 12 and redesignate sections 4, 5, and 6 as sections 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

Page 12, line 17, strike "forfeiture" and insert "forfeiture under any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense".

Page 13, beginning in line 20 strike "under any Act of Congress" and insert "under any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense".

Page 13, line 25, strike "pre-judgment interest" and insert "pre-judgment interest in a proceeding under any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense".

Page 14, line 17, strike "any intangible benefits" and insert "any intangible benefits in a proceeding under any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense".

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MRS. MEEK OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 15, insert after line 8 the following:

SEC. 7. FORFEITURE FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING.

Section 981(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(1) Any conveyance, including any vessel, vehicle, or aircraft which has been used or is being used in commission of a violation of section 274(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)); and

"(2) Any property, real or personal that—

"(A) constitutes, is derived from, or is traceable to the proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, from the commission of a violation of section 274(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)); or

"(B) is used to facilitate, or is intended to be used to facilitate, the commission of a violation of such section.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. PAUL

AMENDMENT NO. 15: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FORFEITURE CONDITION.

No property may be forfeited under any civil asset forfeiture law unless the property's owner has first been convicted of the criminal offense that makes the property subject to forfeiture. The term "civil forfeiture law" refers to any provision of Federal law (other than the Tariff Act of 1930 or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) providing for the forfeiture of property other than as a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. SWEENEY

AMENDMENT NO. 16: Page 4, strike lines 9 through 11 and insert the following:

"(F) A claim filed under subparagraph (A) shall include the posting of a bond to the United States in the sum of \$5,000 or 10 percent of the value of the claimed property, whichever is lower, but not less than \$250, with sureties to be approved by the Attorney General. No bond shall be required if the property is seized by the Attorney General and a timely claim is filed *in forma pauperis* with all supporting information as required by the Attorney General. The Attorney General has the authority to waive or reduce the bond requirement in any additional category of cases where the Attorney General determines that posting bond is not required in the interests of justice.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. SWEENEY

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 6, line 5 insert before the semicolon the following: "was not willfully blind to such conduct, and did not demonstrate a deliberate indifference to such conduct".

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. SWEENEY

AMENDMENT NO. 18: Page 6, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 7, line 13 and insert the following: "was a bona fide purchaser or seller for value (including a purchaser or seller of goods or services for value)".

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. SWEENEY

AMENDMENT NO. 19: Page 14, strike line 25 and all that follows through page 15, line 8.

H.R. 1658

OFFERED BY: MR. SWEENEY

[Amendment to the Hutchinson Substitute]

AMENDMENT NO. 20: In subsection (b) of the proposed section 983 of title 18, United States Code, add at the end the following:

"(4) A claim filed under paragraph (1) shall include the posting of a bond to the United States in the sum of \$5,000 or 10 percent of the value of the claimed property, whichever is lower, but not less than \$250, with sureties to be approved by the Attorney General. No bond shall be required if the property is seized by the Attorney General and if the claim is filed *in forma pauperis* with all supporting information as required by the Attorney General. The Attorney General has the authority to waive or reduce the bond requirement in any additional category of cases where the Attorney General determines that posting bond is not required in the interests of justice.